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THE MAINE USURPATION

GOV. GARCELON WILL SUBMIT SOME OF THE QUESTIONS.

ONLY POINTS OF LAW, NONE OF FACT, TO BE DECIDED BY THE SUPREME COURT—A CONFERENCE WITH MILITIA OFFICERS—THE HON. EUGENE HALE GIVING VOICE TO THE PEOPLE'S INDIGNATION.

AUGUSTA, Me., Dec. 31.—The Governor has prepared certain questions of law to the Supreme Court, which he will submit in response to the letter of Mr. Morrill. The questions will cover the essential points in Mr. Morrill's communication, but are not to be made public until placed in the hands of the court. There will be no correspondence with Mr. Morrill as to the matter of the communication. Mr. Gould, the Governor's legal adviser, says the Constitution authorizes only the submission of questions of law to the court, and not of facts. The questions were sent to the court this afternoon.

The military officers summoned from Bangor had an interview with the Governor to-day in reference to an inquiry concerning the calling out of the Militia companies, should they be needed. The officers promised to obey the orders of the Governor as long as he was in office. The Governor spoke in strong language in opposition to calling out military companies.

ELLSWORTH, Me., Dec. 31.—At an indignation meeting held here last night, ex-Congressman Eugene Hale spoke. He had not yet fully got back his strength after his late illness, he said, and should need it all in the conflict which would set in on the first Wednesday of January, at Augusta. He had been elected and given a certificate as a member of the House of Representatives, and should have an official part in the conflict, and it was not fitting that he should seek to inflame the people. Then, referring to the manner in which the returns were canvassed, he said: "It is a gigantic and appalling conspiracy to seize the Government of Maine, and it does not mean to stop until the Electoral vote in 1880 is either secured to the Democrats or tainted so that it cannot be counted."

Concerning the rumors that the Republicans intended to resort to arms, he said: "Tell me what manifestation there has been of this? While the facts have been unfolded before our eyes they shut up public records never withhold from inspection; they repulsed men like Gov. Dingley, Mr. Lynds, and Mr. Emery, when they courteously sought access. They rudely thrust from their doors elected members who desired to look at returns on which their election was based, and yet no man in the Republican Party stirred in violent protest. They ruthlessly decapitate scores of Republican Senators and Representatives and make up their own black lists to suit themselves, and when that is done, block up the way to the Supreme Court by the Governor's dogged refusal to call upon it, and yet no one of the conspirators has been hurt or even threatened. They, on a peaceful Christmas, without taking pains to get an official order, and against a set ordinance, haul through the public streets of Bangor, selecting the most frequented ways for the purpose, arms and munitions of war, and when the people of that gallant city sprang into life and activity by thousands, almost mad at the outrage, a single word from the Mayor and other leading citizens dispersed them like magic, and, to-day, to put new humiliation on Bangor, which elected three Republican Representatives, and so could not be counted out, the Adjutant-General with the appearance of an army, arms and munitions have been taken from the peaceful city to Augusta. For what reason is it proposed to summon the Irish company from Portland to preside over the inauguration next week? These men, while they howl against violence, are, with malice aforethought, exciting it, expecting unsuccessful violence by which they can shift the issue, and yet hold their plunder and booty. They build upon the known moderation, forbearance, and conservatism of the Republican Party—forbearance and moderation which has been shown all through this villainy, such forbearance and moderation as were never shown before by men under like circumstances. How much further will they dare to go? It takes no vision of the seer to sketch the last scene. On the first Wednesday of January the people of Maine are wont to assemble in the Capitol of the State at Augusta to witness the inauguration of the Government which shall hold the power for the year to come. It is a spectacle which interests all. Men, women, and little children throng the rotunda, corridors, and galleries by the hundreds. Everybody is free; everybody is peaceable; everybody is welcome. This year it is all changed; the building is barricaded; the Montgomery Guards hold it and its avenues; armed men stand at the door with lists in their hands, and the citizen is eliminated from the assemblage. Men are startled at such a picture, and doubt that it will ever be seen; four, yes, two, weeks ago I should have doubted it myself; but that such is the cup which will be presented to us. I am in favor of peace. I want it kept. I want a pure and peaceable emergence from the situation, from the dangers which beset us. I yet hope for and expect it, though I shall not dwell upon the ways by which it can be brought about. Let us hope for that, long for that, pray for that. But ye eight men, who sit as despots, have set before in places that seemed safe and rock-rooted, but which yet were but an inch from the volcano, I warn you not to go too far in your experiments upon the forbearance and moderation of the citizens of the State of Maine."

AUGUSTA, Me., Dec. 31.—It is known here that at a late hour to-night the Governor and Council concluded the preparation of the series of questions to be submitted to the Supreme Court, upon which they had been at work all day. It is understood that the number of distinct propositions to be submitted to the court is about a dozen.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 31.—A telegram on behalf of the Democrats of San Francisco was sent to Gov. Garcelon, of Maine, to-day, approving his action in regard to the recent election. The signatures to the dispatch include no prominent men of the Democratic Party.

SWINDLING METHODS EXPOSED.

THE REPORT TO THE REPUBLICAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE—THE EVIDENCES OF INTENTIONAL FRAUD.

AUGUSTA, Me., Dec. 31.—The statement made to the Republican Advisory Committee by Orville D. Baker, its counsel, regarding his examination of the grounds on which 29 Republican Representatives, chosen at the September election, have been counted out by the Governor and Council, gives the following details:

Portland chose five Republican Representatives by an average majority of 629 votes. In the return, 143 votes were placed opposite the word "scattering." For this reason the entire return was rejected and Portland deprived of representation. It was urged before the Governor and Council that no evidence whatever was before them to show that 143 ballots, with simply the word "scattering" thereon, were not cast as returned; and, furthermore, that granting irregularity, it was obvious on the face of the return that votes opposite the word "scattering" could not be so placed or designed as to destroy or offset a plurality, or even the absolute majority of any one of the five Republican candidates. After depriving Portland, in this way, of representation, the Governor and Council decline to authorize a new election, so that it appears to have been an intentional design to exclude Portland from all voice or vote in the organization of the Legislature. The destruction of Portland's right of representation is rendered all the more significant from the fact that the return of last year, as well as of this year, contained votes returned as "scattering." Cases in this book are mentioned where that word has been used, from the count of the governmental vote by the Legislature down to the smallest town officer, and the exclusion of Portland by Gov. Garcelon and his council is the first known instance in which a return had been invalidated thereby. In the very first election in Maine as a State, when William King was chosen Governor in 1820, the word "scattering" appeared in the returns of some of the towns. The Canvassing Board was composed in a large part of men who had taken part in the formation of the Constitution the same year. It is a significant circumstance that a board thus composed should decide that the word "scattering" did not invalidate a return, thus giving at the outset a construction to the Constitution by men who had assisted in framing it. By the Constitution it is made the duty of the Governor and Council to issue a certificate to the person who appears by the face of the return to be elected. By the Portland return, construed in any possible way, it unmistakably appears that the five Republican candidates received a clear majority of all the votes cast. But the Governor and Council refused to all five the certificate which the Constitution commands.

The four other disfranchised cities—Lewiston, Saco, Bath, and Rockland—were, like Portland, denied representation, but for a different reason. In the aggregate, the four cities are entitled to seven Representatives, and they were all disfranchised for the same reason, namely, that the election return from each city was signed by only three Aldermen, whereas the Governor and Council decided that it required four. Under the understood practice of former Governors and Councils, this defect was easily supplied from the record, but Governor Garcelon and his Council refused to allow this correction. The wrong done these cities is greatly aggravated by the fact that the official blanks for the election returns from cities, sent out from the office of the Secretary of State to city officers, contained a ruled space for the signatures of officers. First, a dotted line with the word "Mayor" at the end; next, and close up to the first line, some three dotted lines only, inclosed with a brace at the end, with the word "Aldermen" against the brace; closely following came a fifth line, with the words "City Clerk" at the end. It would be impossible for any intelligent man, on looking at the blank, to suppose that the signatures of more than three Aldermen could be expected. The Secretary of State could give no reason for this extraordinary form of blank, never used in previous years, and for the first time seen in Maine. Its use is all the more remarkable from the fact that there was an abundant supply of blanks for city returns already in his office. These circumstances afford strong presumptive proof that a desperate plot was formed in advance of the election to disfranchise Republican cities, and that in the case of four of them the plot was successful.

Skowhegan gave Steward, Republican, for Representative, 595 votes, and Snow, the Democratic and Greenback candidate, 302 votes. The Republican ballot bearing Steward's name had the names of the candidates printed in two columns, instead of the more usual form of one column. The law in regard to the form of ballot is as follows: "No ballot shall be received at any election of State or town officers unless in writing or printing, on clean, white paper, without any distinguishing mark or figures thereon besides the names of persons voted for and offices to be filled. But no vote shall be rejected on this account after it is received into the ballot-box." It is not denied that the Republican ballot in Skowhegan was on clean, white paper, and had no distinguishing mark save the names of the persons voted for and the offices to be filled. But on the day of election William Philbrick, a strongly partisan Greenback leader, induced the Selectmen to indorse with the return a protest against the form of ballot as being a distinguishing mark in itself, and Gov. Garcelon and his Council took this protest as a justification of their decision, and threw out the entire Republican vote of Skowhegan, and thus completely disfranchised 570 citizens of Maine. Gov. Garcelon made this extraordinary decision in face of the provision of law above quoted.

The mistake in the spelling of the name of John Burnham in the return for the Town of Ashland, the silent letter "n" being omitted, and the action of the Governor and Council in deciding to call John Burnam a different man from John Burnham, and thus leaving a plurality for Alfred Cushman is alluded to. This question has already been completely covered by the Supreme Court of the State, in the opinions of the Justices, (64 Maine, 596.) The court expressly held that "when a name was misspelled, but was recognizable by its sound on the face of the returns as that of a candidate," it was the duty of the Governor and Council to "count the name misspelled for the candidate for whom it was obviously intended." Moreover, in the Harpswell-Scarboro District, in Cumberland County, the Democratic vote of Scarboro is returned for Melville P. Hunnewell, and the Democratic vote of Harpswell for Melville P. Hunniwell, and in the New-Castle district the Democratic vote from two towns is returned for James W. Clark, and in two other towns for James W. Clarke, yet the Governor and Council, in order to seat Democratic Representatives from these districts, have counted those names as identical. A few days after this remarkable decision in the Ashland case, the Hon. Llewellyn Powers, being permitted to examine the returns from the district, found that in Merrill Plantation, giving a large Democratic majority, the Representative vote was returned for Alford Cushman. Mr. Powers called the attention of the Governor and Council to this fact, which they had apparently overlooked, and he insisted that if "Burnam" could not be taken for "Burnham," *idem sonans*, "Alford" could not be taken for "Alfred," not *idem sonans*; nor, indeed, the same name. Gov. Garcelon expressed his surprise at the revelation, and said he had never before heard of the facts, and said it should be corrected. Mr. Powers pointed out that if both were counted or both rejected, Burnham would, in either event be elected. He urged a prompt reversal of the decision, a recall of the summons from Cushman, and the issuing of a new one to Burnham. He left the Governor and Council with the full belief that the change would be made and justice done. The Council did not take up the matter until Saturday last, and then they decided that the votes for Alford Cushman could not be counted for Alfred Cushman, and they adhered to their former decision that the votes for Burnam could not be counted for Burnham, and left Mr. Burnham elected by 17 majority. But the Council would not accord this as conclusive, and to avert it they resorted to a very singular process. The Town of Hersey, belonging to the district, gave 20 votes for Burnham and 1 for Cushman, and had been so counted, tabulated, and declared by the Governor and Council in their official examination.

They now took it up afresh, and some person skilled in the counting of Aroostook votes averred that the names of the Second and Third Selectmen were written in the same hand, namely, that of the third Selectman. But that would not do alone, for that left two genuine signatures—that of the First and Third Selectman—and left the return good. Mr. William Dickey, of Fort Kent, then informs the public that the First Selectman, Mr. Tozier, was an alien, and that Councilor Parker knew all about it. When Councilor Parker was present, as the time for the vote of Hersey was counted, he concurred in regarding it as regular and legal; but now, with Councilor Parker 200 miles away, in Aroostook, the valuable statement of Mr. William Dickey, as to what Parker knew and could tell if he were present, is accepted as conclusive on the important issue of disfranchising a town and changing the representation of a district. Of all the actions of the Governor and Council, this last one is regarded as the most extraordinary and indefensible.

The Town of Farmington, casting a vote of 842, is classed with the Plantation of Perkins, casting a vote of 27. Together they elect one Representative. Farmington gave the Republican candidate 36 majority. Perkins Plantation gave the Fusion candidate a majority of 1. If the 842 voters of Farmington could be disfranchised, it was possible to count in the Fusion candidate by a vote of 14 to 13, in a total vote of 27 from Perkins Plantation. The return from Farmington stood thus: Whole number of votes, 842; Charles A. Thomas had 437 votes, and Lewis Vose 401. The sum total of these votes is 838. The sum total of ballots is stated at 842. On the pretext of this discrepancy, the Council rejected the return, disfranchised Farmington, and counted in a man who was not elected, though in a Democratic town. Marysville, in Aroostook County, returned the whole number of ballots as 161, while the sum of the votes is 162, and still the return is counted in by the Governor and Council.

Mr. Baker at very great length recited the details of the action of the Governor and Council, enlarging upon the facts previously presented in the Republican considerations of the matters at issue in the pending controversy, and quoting laws and judicial decisions in support of the premises assumed. Each point in dispute is made the subject of earnest attention. The counsel, after going into the most minute details, finds no ground for the stand taken by the Governor and Council. The changes made by them in the House and Senate are taken up in regular order, and the incidents reviewed carefully.

In Cumberland County, entitled to four Senators, they deprived the Republican candidates of their large majority in the City of Portland by the same decision made touching the Representative vote, but something more was needed than throwing out 3,400 Republican votes in Portland. The returns from the Cumberland towns were very accurate, but they discovered in the Republican town of Otisfield that the whole number of votes had been omitted, and forthwith Otisfield was thrown out, though the return was absolutely faultless, except in this one non-essential point. More reductions being still demanded on the Republican vote, the Governor and Council found Westbrook to be the only available spot here they found that the Republican vote was 366. The vote was given in full, in both letters and figures, opposite the name of Joseph A. Locke, but opposite the names of Locke's Republican colleagues, ditto marks were used both under the letters and figures. On this ground Locke's three colleagues were counted out. In York County, entitled to three Senators, the large Republican majority in Saco was lost to the Republican candidates, because the Aldermen of Saco fell victims. The Town of Lebanon was also thrown out, for the reason stated in its Representative vote, and with the reductions in the Republican majority thus effected, and some mistakes in the initials, which were invalidation.

Regarding the vote of Cherryfield, the Council maintained that if one of the Selectmen was an alien at the time of his election, the board could never have been legally organized, and could not, therefore, make a lawful return; but in the Town of Cutler, in the same county, it was shown that one of the Selectmen was never qualified at all, and the board had been organized by two Selectmen only; but Cutler gave a large Democratic majority, and the Council decreed her vote to be legal. Vanceboro was also counted out for the reason given in the Representative vote.

Thus were eight Republican Senators counted out and eight Democratic and Greenback Senators counted in. Thanxe fell on 29 Republicans elected in the House and 8 in the Senate. As elected by the people, the House stood 90 Republicans and 61 Democrats; as reversed by Gov. Garcelon and his Council, it stood 78 Democrats and 61 Republicans and 12 vacancies. As elected, by the people, the Senate stood 19 Republicans and 12 Fusionists. When the Governor and Council were through with the returns, the Senate contained 20 Fusionists and 11 Republicans. During the 60 years that Maine has been a State, her Governors have counted out on an average one man in every four years on technical errors. In this one year, "fatal defects" spring up in thirty-seven different districts at once, and all on the Republican side.

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

THE POINTS UPON WHICH HE ASKS THE DECISION OF THE COURT.

AUGUSTA, Me., Jan. 1.—The following are the questions propounded by Gov. Garcelon and sent to the Chief-Justice to-night:

First—When the Governor and Council decide that there is no return from a city on which Representatives can be summoned to attend and take their seats in the Legislature, is it their duty to order a new election, or is it competent for the House of Representatives, if it shall appear that there was an election of such Representatives, to admit them to seats, though no return thereof was made and delivered into the office of the Secretary of State?

Second—Is it competent for the Governor and Council to allow the substitution of other evidence in place of the returned copies of such lists as are provided for in Revised Statutes, Part 1, Section 5 of the Constitution, to enable them to determine what persons appear to be elected Representatives to the Legislature by a plurality of the votes returned?

Third—Is a return signed by a majority of the Selectmen of a town or Aldermen of a city valid within the requirements of the same section?

Fourth—When a return by Aldermen of a city, which does not give the number of votes cast for each person voted for as a member of the Legislature, and does not show what persons were voted for as such members in any one of the several wards of such city, a valid return within the requirements of the same section?

Fifth—Are the returns from towns or cities, which are not attested by Town or City Clerk, valid within the same section?

Sixth—Have the Governor and Council a right to reject returns of election of the members of the Legislature required by the same section, from officers of towns, which were not made, signed, or sealed up in open town meeting?

Seventh—Is the return of two persons purporting to be the Selectmen of a town valid and sufficient evidence of the vote of the town, when it appears that there were at the time of meeting at which the election was held but two Selectmen of that town?

Eighth—Can a person who is not a citizen of the United States at the time be legally elected or constituted a Selectman of a town?

Ninth—If a ballot has a distinguishing mark in the judgment of the Governor and Council such as would make it illegal under the statute, are they authorized to disregard it in their ascertainment of what persons appear to be elected where it appears by the official return of the officers of the town that such vote was received by the Selectmen subject to objection and its legality referred to the Governor and Council for decision.

Tenth—If names of persons appear in the return without any number of votes being stated or carried out against them, either in words or figures, is it the duty of the Governor and Council to treat those persons as having the same number of votes as another person received for the same office, and whose name is placed first in the return if they find data under the figures or words set against such other person's name?

Eleventh—Have the Governor and Council the legal right to decide what kind of evidence they will receive, and what is the mode of proceeding before them shall be to enable them to determine the genuineness of the returns required by the article and section of the Constitution above mentioned?

Twelfth—If the Governor and Council have before them two lists of votes returned from the same town, differing materially from each other in the number of votes returned as cast for the same person, but identical in all other respects, both having been duly received at the Secretary's office, and they have no evidence to enable them to determine which is the true and genuine return, are they required to treat either of them as valid, and if so, which?

CURRENT FOREIGN TOPICS.

DUBLIN, Dec. 31.—The fund instituted by the Duchess of Marlborough for the relief of distress in Ireland now amounts to £8,300.

Dr. McEvilly, Coadjutor of the Archbishop of Tuam, in acknowledging the receipt of £1,000 from the churches of Cardinal Manning's diocese, in England, says that no amount of private charity can cope with the approaching famine in Ireland, and that a system of remunerative public works can alone be effectual.

LONDON, Dec. 31.—The Mayor of Limerick has received a letter from the President of St. Patrick's Society in Chicago, Ill., informing him that he has forwarded $500 for the relief of the distressed poor in Ireland.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 31.—Adjt. Baranoff, who became famous during the Russo-Turkish war as the commander of the Vesta, an old Russian merchant vessel turned into a gun-boat, in which he whipped a Turkish iron-clad after a five hours' fight off Kustendje, in July, 1877, has been court-martialed and dismissed the service for making use of insulting language in reference to the Ministry of Marine. It is probable that the sentence will be modified by the supreme power.

MISSOURI CONGRESSMEN.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Dec. 31.—An attempt to effect a fusion of the Republicans and Greenbackers in the Seventh Congressional District, at Sedalia, to-day, fell through. The Republicans nominated ex-Gov. McClurg, and the Greenbackers W. C. Aldridge, as candidates for the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Ley. The Democratic Congressional Convention, at Boonville, yesterday, nominated John F. Phillips, law partner of Senator West, for the same position.

THE KENTUCKY LEGISLATURE.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Dec. 31.—The Kentucky Legislature met at Frankfort to-day. The House elects J. M. Berger, of Paducah, as Speaker.

THE STATE LAW-MAKERS

SENATORS AND ASSEMBLYMEN ARRIVING AT ALBANY.

THE COMING CONTESTS—FIVE CANDIDATES FOR THE SPEAKERSHIP ALREADY ON HAND—GATHERING OF LEGISLATORS AND OTHERS.

ALBANY, Dec. 31.—Every train that arrived here to-day brought its load of newly-elected officers, Senators, Assemblymen, and office-seekers, by far the largest majority of each load consisting of the latter class of persons. The hotels, which had been deserted save by a few local politicians, have filled rapidly, and their corridors were to-night crowded with men who were seeking the latest news. The first question asked in conversation by everybody is: "Who will be Speaker?"

There are five candidates here, and most of them have begun their canvass by making friendly visits to the rooms of their opponents. Mr. Charles R. Skinner, who has rooms at the Delavan, was called on by two of his opponents. One of these was Mr. Charles S. Baker, of Monroe, who arrived at Stanwix Hall this afternoon and has declared himself a candidate for the Speakership, and who says he has good reason to believe that he can depend upon a large number of members to vote for him, if friendly assurances conveyed by letter are to be accounted as worth anything. Gen. Sharpe also has rooms at the Delavan, and, what is, perhaps, a more important state of things for him, he has thus far a larger number of friends among the talkers in the corridors than any other candidate. Gen. Husted came in to-night at 10:30 and got to his rooms without passing through the corridor, and thus disappointed many men who were waiting to receive him. The fifth candidate here is Mr. Archibald Kennedy, of Livingston, who does not seem to have been accompanied by many of his friends, as little is yet heard about him or his prospects. Whatever may be the result of the canvass, the contest itself promises to-night to be much less fierce and bitter than it was last year. Of the Assemblymen here, not one can be induced to admit his preference for any of the candidates, all the outspoken preferences coming from men who have no votes.

Mr. John W. Vroomau and Mr. H. W. Holden, the two candidates for Clerk of the Senate, were seen to-night greeting each other in the most cordial manner, and chatting about the coming fight with the utmost good-nature. They both have friends here, but it is impossible to judge as yet which holds the greatest number of trumps. Besides these candidates, John Christie, of Fultonville, and Miles S. Beach are here, looking for somebody to help elect one of them Sergeant-at-Arms, and there are certainly 10 men ready to drop into any other position which may be vacant.

Among the arrivals to-day were Lieut.-Gov. Hoskins, Hon. Hamilton Ward, the Attorney-General-elect; Judge Advocate General Horace Russell, Inspector-General Barnes, Surgeon-General Dr. W. H. Watson, Engineer-in-Chief Lloyd Aspinwall, Paymaster-General Jacob W. Hoyt-radt, and Cols. James M. Varnum, John T. Mott, and Watson, of Gov. Cornell's staff; several members of Gov. Robinson's staff, Senators-elect Wendover, Jacobs, Murtha, Rockwell, and Fowler, Assemblymen C. M. Titus, of Tompkins; J. W. Goraline, of Herkimer; D. W. Tallmadge and George Wren, of Kings, ex-Senators Selkreg, Hughes, Raines, and Marvin, Justice Jacob M. Patterson, Jr., Col. Michael Cregan, Marshal Payn, Deputy Marshal Edsall, Collector Merritt, Special Agent N. M. Curtis, Jeremiah Drew, Gen. Jourdan, and ex-Assemblymen Burleigh and Gilbert. Mr. Alvord was expected to-day, but will probably not arrive until Friday. Mr. Terry is expected to-morrow. With the arrival of the seventy members of Assembly the list of candidates for Speaker will be full. By to-morrow night the fight will have become warm, and if some of the members become excited they will probably drop enough of their opinions to enable one to get a fair idea of the relative strength of the different candidates. As far as heard from all are in to win. It is plain that several men will be beaten. It is also well understood that, in forming the combinations that are expected, the man who can control the largest number of votes that can be transferred, practically controls the result.

The arrangements for the inauguration are complete and are the same as those already announced. Gen. Carr, the Secretary of State, has taken the oath of office and will to-morrow swear in Gov. Cornell and all of the State officers.

MR. SCHOONMAKER EXPLAINS.

THE HOSTILE CRITICISM NOT ANTICIPATED—GIVING THE REASONS WHY HE DECIDED TO DISCONTINUE THE SUITS AGAINST KINGSLEY & KEENEY.

ALBANY, Dec. 31.—Attorney-General Schoonmaker, who has unexpectedly walked into a fiery furnace, scarcely anticipated that he was about to expose himself to criticism, when, on Dec. 23, he signed a consent to the discontinuance of the State suits against Messrs. Kingsly & Keeney, of Brooklyn. When he was shown THE TIMES of this morning, and was asked to say what he would in regard to the discontinuance proceedings, he readily consented to give all the information he possessed. The suits for the State were permitted by Attorney-General Pratt in December, 1875. The prosecution was delegated to private counsel (John E. Parsons) in New-York, and Attorney-General Schoonmaker says his attention was not drawn to them, nor did he know the nature of their purpose until an application was made in November by Gen. B. F. Tracy to have them disposed of.

The first action, relating to the reservoir contract, drew out a cross-action by Kingsley & Keeney to recover a balance claimed to be due for the work. "In this action," wrote the Attorney-General, in his memorandum, "the matters which were relied upon for a cause of action in the first suit were interposed as a defense. Upon this issue the action was tried upon the merits, and resulted in a judgment in favor of the contractors and against the city, which was affirmed by the General Term and by the Court of Appeals. So far as the reservoir case is concerned, the judgment against the city in the cross-action by the contractors practically determines the controversy, and the eminent counsel for the city, who also represents the Attorney-General in the people's suits, as well as the Corporation Counsel, concur in my own opinion that a further prosecution of the people's suits would be fruitless, and, consequently, a useless expense." Mr. Schoonmaker says that when Mr. Tracy wrote him he went to New-York, and then had a conversation with John E. Parsons and Col. Tracy, in which it was decided to discontinue the suits, Mr. Parsons consenting. No effort had been made to push the cases, and Mr. Schoonmaker supposed, he says, that there seemed no reason for further pressing them. Mr. Parsons said, in the conversation referred to, that he considered the reservoir case disposed of by the decision of the Court of Appeals, and that he was not at all clear that the City could press the Third-avenue suit with any advantage.

Of the second suit, the Attorney-General's memorandum says it is "of much less importance in amount, and contains fewer facts upon which a recovery might be urged than the other. It relates to a definite subject-matter, but has some features in common with the other." After a careful examination of the pleadings, he comes to the conclusion that "under the law as enunciated by the courts in that case, and in other recent decisions, there can be no recovery by the people in this action, and he refers to the actions of the People against Stephens, 71 New-York, 527; the People against Dawson and others, Albany General Term, November, 1878; the People on rel. Sage against Schuyler, Court of Appeals, December, 1878. A communication, signed by many of the most weighty and influential citizens of Brooklyn, represents that further prosecution of the State suits would be vexatious and abusive, and asks that they be discontinued." Not half was a memorial to this effect presented to the Attorney-General, signed by the Mayor and 100 or more others, but letters were sent, dated all along from Dec. 3 to Dec. 20, from Mayor Howell, Samuel McLean, Thomas C. De Witt, the Rev. Dr. Storrs, and Joshua M. Van Cott, (who had, however, been employed as counsel,) all counseling discontinuance. The Attorney-General says that if the city or the State is dissatisfied with the discontinuance, it works no hindrance to them, but that they may immediately, if it be so desired, reopen the prosecution.

JOE COBURN NOT PARDONED.

GOV. ROBINSON EXAMINES THE CASE BUT DECLINES TO INTERFERE WITH THE SENTENCE.

ALBANY, Dec. 31.—The report from New-York that Gov. Robinson had pardoned, or was about to pardon, Joe Coburn, who was sent to prison for 10 years for attempting to kill Officer Tobias, was generally accepted as true here, and it was supposed that Gov. Robinson had succumbed to the pressure which had been brought to bear on him for a year or more in behalf of Coburn. Last Winter the same report was circulated, and Senator Ecclesine, who had used his influence to induce the Governor to commute the sentence, gave countenance to the report. At that time the correspondent of THE TIMES talked with Gov. Robinson on the subject, and found him quite indifferent to Coburn's fate. The excuse having been given him by the applicant for a pardon, that Coburn had lost flesh, the Governor replied that Coburn would probably lose more flesh before he obtained either pardon or commutation. Remembering the Governor's views as then expressed, the TIMES correspondent called upon the Governor this morning, and found him talking with Mr. Lester B. Faulkner, Mr. Henry A. Tilden, and some other Democratic friends. When the Coburn matter was mentioned, he came forward and began talking about it in the emphatic, deliberate manner characteristic of the man. He said that the degree of interest manifested in Coburn was so deep that he had been led to examine his case very carefully. He had gone over the testimony, and found that there could be no possible doubt that Coburn fired five shots at Tobias, and that it was only by chance that the latter escaped death. None of the witnesses for the defense really offered any testimony to relieve Coburn of the charge of attempted murder. "I am satisfied," said the Governor, "that the case was fairly tried; that Judge Sutherland's charge to the jury was a perfectly fair one, and that the verdict of the jury and the sentence of the court were just. I have not pardoned the man or commuted his sentence. Indeed, I have not even thought of doing the one thing or the other." He again expressed his astonishment that so much concern had been manifested in Coburn's welfare, but most positively reiterated his determination not to interfere in his behalf.

The report having been heard here in Albany that the Governor had been using his power to pardon criminals to an unusual degree during the past two months, and that in that time he had passed favorably on 200 requests to pardon, the TIMES correspondent ventured to ask him whether the report was true or not. The Governor laughed quietly, and said: "Nothing of the kind. I may say, however, that during the last months of my term there has been an unusual number of applications for the exercise of the Executive clemency. I have had a bushel of requests of all kinds. In order to clear out the business already accumulated I have given as much time as I could command to disposing of some old cases one way or the other. In disposing of this accumulated business I have decided 15 or 16 cases, in five of which pardons were granted. A few cases of life sentence were considered, and two of them were commuted, at the request of District Attorneys, because in both instances it had been discovered that the sentences had been erroneously imposed."

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE.

ALBANY, N. Y., Dec. 31.—Gen. Frederick Townsend, Adjutant-General, has made the following appointments for his office: Assistant Adjutant-General—John S. McEwan; Acting Assistant Adjutants-General—Frederick Phisterer and John B. Stonehouse; Chief Clerk—Edward B. Tenbroeck; Clerks—H. P. Stackpole and Hugh B. McLean; Messenger—Christian Schurr; Clerks engaged in copying muster-rolls—John C. Van Allen, John J. Haggerty, George D. Smith, George T. Allen, John N. Cutter, and Guy E. Baker; Keeper of the Bureau of Military Statistics—Harrison Clark; Janitor—J. V. B. Pultnan.

Adjt.-Gen. Woodward disapproves of the finding of the court-martial which tried Capt. Cochen, of Company I, Thirteenth Regiment, and awards him an honorable discharge.

An order has been issued by Adjt.-Gen. Woodward countermanding the order directing that the duties of Inspector-General be performed by the Adjutant-General.

THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN.

FLIGHT OF MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY—RUSSIA'S INTRIGUES AT KABUL.

LONDON, Dec. 31.—The St. Petersburg *Invalide Russe* publishes a telegram from Tashkend, reporting the arrival there of the Afghan Sirdars, Nek Mohammed, brother of the late Ameer Shere Ali, and his cousin, the Ulema Hussein Khan, accompanied by a suite of eight persons. They fled from Kabul after the fighting which preceded Gen. Roberts's entry into the city, and solicited Russian hospitality.

Sirdar Nek Mohammed commanded the Afghans at the battle of Char-Asiab. Among the treasure found by the British at Kabul was a cup inscribed "Presented to Nek Mohammed for valuable services to the Russian Government in 1879."

Another dispatch from Tashkend states that Abdul Rahman Khan, the Afghan Pretender, obtained leave to visit his relatives in Ferzhana, and has fled from there.

LEMNOS, Jan. 1.—A dispatch, dated Kabul, Dec. 26, says that the Mohammedans are abandoning Kabul, fearing that some retribution will be visited upon them, as they all sympathize with the enemy. The Hindus who remain in Kabul report that a reign of terror existed from Dec. 15 until the city was abandoned by the rebels. Every shop and house was gutted, except those belonging to the Mohammedans. Women were stripped publicly, and men were shot in the streets. The total loss of the enemy in and near Kabul is placed at 2,000. The snow is melting fast.

A St. Petersburg dispatch announces that an agreement between England and Russia on the Central Asian question has not yet been effected.

EUROPEAN STATE QUESTIONS.

A DISSOLUTION OF THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT EXPECTED SOON AFTER EASTER—PRINCE BISMARCK'S DISARMAMENT SCHEME.

MANCHESTER, Dec. 31.—A London correspondent says: "A good many members of Parliament are now in town, and not one of them believes that the next session of Parliament, which begins on the 5th of February, will run to the usual time of prorogation in August. There seems to be ground for the belief that a dissolution of Parliament will occur as soon as the Budget and other urgent bills shall have been disposed of—probably soon after Easter."

LONDON, Dec. 31.—A correspondent says he learns, on good authority, that the attention of the English Government has lately been directed to the projects of disarmament put forward by Prince Bismarck; that, despite the present qualifying statements, Prince Bismarck has projected a scheme for gradual disarmament, but Austria is the only Continental power which has given absolute adhesion to the scheme. "In diplomatic circles," the correspondent says, "it is expected that Prince Bismarck will make a declaration on the subject soon, but there does not seem to be much confidence felt in the integrity of his motives."

LONDON, Jan. 1.—Reuter's dispatch from Constantinople reports that Minister Layard's note to the Porte in reference to the Mohammedan prisoner who is reported to be under sentence of death for circulating pamphlets subversive of Islamism, being still unanswered, Minister Layard has suspended official relations with the Porte. The British Embassy nevertheless maintains a semi-official intercourse with the Porte, no actual rupture of diplomatic relations having occurred. Meanwhile, Sir Austen Layard awaits instructions from Lord Salisbury. Germany and Austria have urged Minister Layard and the Porte to come to an arrangement in the matter.

A Vienna correspondent announces that the powers have induced the Porte to order Mukhtar Pasha to publish another proclamation to the Albanians conjuring them in the Sultan's name to surrender Gusinje to Montenegro.

SPAIN'S POLITICAL TROUBLES.

A CRITICAL STATE OF AFFAIRS—THE ATTEMPT ON THE KING'S LIFE.

LONDON, Dec. 31.—A dispatch from Hendaye, France, to Reuter's Telegram Company says: "Madrid letters describe the political situation in Spain as very critical. An alliance is being negotiated between Gen. Martinez-Campos and Señor Sagasta for the purpose of strengthening the Constitutionalists. Notwithstanding the urgent representations of the Navarrese Senators and members of the Chamber of Deputies, the Government refuses to re-establish the *Fueros*."

MADRID, Dec. 31.—Gonzales, the would-be assassin of King Alfonso, who had been lying in wait about the door of the Royal Palace, fired from a corner of the sentry-box. Gonzales did not make much resistance on being arrested. The guards had to protect him from the violence of the crowd.

COLORED IMMIGRANTS IN KANSAS.

PRESENT CONDITION OF THE REFUGEES FROM THE SOUTH.

TOPEKA, Kan., Dec. 31.—A staff correspondent of the Chicago *Inter-Ocean*, who has been making an investigation of the exodus in Kansas during four weeks' travel through the State, writes a letter from here, giving his conclusions. He estimates the number of refugees in the State at 15,000. Of these, he thinks that probably one-fifth were able to buy a little land and are making a good progress in farming. Most of the remainder have found, through the Freedman's Relief Association, places as laborers, and are giving good satisfaction. In no county did he find them burdens upon corporated charities; but the demand for these laborers has been stretched to its fullest capacity, as the accumulation of refugees at the barracks, now nearly 700—for whom no places can be found, clearly indicates. Judging from what he has learned from refugees themselves, and from the increasing number—now from 25 to 50—arriving every day, he predicts that the movement to Kansas will soon assume such proportions again as to astonish the country, and unless the tide can be turned, or the charity of the North more readily bestowed, that suffering which the Relief Committee, although laboring faithfully with the means at their command, has not been entirely able to relieve during the recent cold weather will soon be turned to general destitution and great suffering among the pauper refugees.

THE MYSTERIOUS BOSTON MURDER.

ANOTHER STRANGE CIRCUMSTANCE TO BE EXPLAINED—NO MOTIVE TO BE FOUND.

BOSTON, Dec. 31.—The death of Mrs. Helen J. Ward, at No. 11 Hamilton-place, yesterday morning, continues the subject of universal comment. The daughter, who it is thought shot her mother, will probably remain in jail until Jan. 7, when her examination in the Municipal Court will take place. The Medical Examiner held an autopsy upon the body of Mrs. Ward to-day, which developed the fact that two shots were fired, one of them fracturing, but not entering, the skull in the forehead, the other entering behind the ear and passing into the brain, causing death. The bullet was extracted from the brain, and a flattened bullet, which undoubtedly caused the wound on the forehead, was found on the floor of the room. This involves the case in deeper mystery, as the gentleman who loaned the revolver to the ladies for their protection states that he left one chamber unlent for the hammer to rest in, as a precaution against premature explosion, and the revolver when found had only two empty chambers. Friends of the deceased woman testify to the affectionate relations existing between mother and daughter, and no motive for the commission of the deed has yet been discovered. Miss Ward was visited at the Police Station last night, and wept bitterly over her situation. She has begged that her mother be not interred until she can see her. The friends of the young woman assert that it must have been a case where great nervous excitement made her entirely irresponsible for the act, even if it were committed by her. The case is one that will be very certain to engage the attention of medical scientists to no small extent.

THE GRAND CANON QUARREL.

THE DENVER AND RIO GRANDE AWARDED POSSESSION.

DENVER, Col., Dec. 31.—The Circuit Court to-day announced a decision in open court on the contest between the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad Company and the Atchison and Topeka Railroad Company, over the occupation of the Grand Cañon of the Arkansas. This case has created deep feeling here,

them, and the slaves free, the States become henceforth, it is time that we know this law as it is. No court in America has ever announced this to be law. It would be exceedingly strange if it should be. By the comity of nations, the personal status of every man is determined by the law of his domicile. This is but the courtesy of nation to nation, founded not upon statute, but is absolutely necessary for the peace and harmony of States and for the enforcement of private justice. A denial of this comity is unheard of among civilized nations, and if deliberately and pertinaciously persisted in would be the just cause of war."

Gov. Johnson, of Virginia, equally with the chief magistrate of Georgia, was terribly incensed at the action of Justice Paine. He made that action the subject of a special communication to the Legislature of the State, in which he said, among other things: "The decision of Judge Paine is in conflict with the opinions and decisions of other distinguished jurists, without, I believe, a single precedent to sustain it. In importance it is of the first magnitude, and in spirit it is without its parallel. If sustained, it will not only destroy that comity which should have subsisted between the several States composing this Confederacy, but must seriously affect the value of slave property wherever found. I deem the subject of sufficient public importance to require and receive the attention of the government of this Commonwealth, and recommend that, for the present, provision shall be made by the General Assembly for the efficient prosecution of the appeal taken. If the statute of New-York has been rightfully expounded by the learned Judge, and is not in conflict with the Constitution of the United States, it is proper that Virginia should know it. The same sovereign power by which New-York enacts her laws and gives them force within her limits pertains to Virginia within hers, and to them she will have to look for redress."

To this appeal from the Governor the General Assembly of Virginia responded by the passage of a resolution directing the Attorney-General of that State to employ such other counsel as he might desire, and to prosecute before the Supreme Court of the State of New-York the appeal taken from Judge Paine's decision. The State of New-York was not slow to act. In pursuance of a joint resolution of the Legislature, the Governor appointed E. D. Culver and Joseph Blunt as counsel to defend the interests of the State. Subsequently, as the case dragged its slow length along, Chester A. Arthur became the attorney for New-York, and upon his request and representation, William M. Evarts, now Secretary of State, was associated with him as leading counsel. It is only necessary to say further, that the Supreme Court sustained the decision of Justice Paine. Then the matter was taken to the Court of Appeals—Mr. Charles O'Conor being the principal counsel for the slave-holding power, and Mr. W. M. Evarts, together with Chester A. Arthur, appearing for the State of New-York and the cause of liberty. After hearing elaborate arguments, and with much deliberation, the Court of Appeals affirmed the judgment of the General Term, and so it was forever established that no man could live as a slave upon the soil of New-York.

The Cover of the Rebellion.

III.

COLORED PEOPLE ON STREET CARS.

By the prominence which he gained in this case, Mr. Arthur won many friends among the colored people, as well as among liberty-loving men and women in all parts of the country. While it was in progress, that is, during 1855 and 1856, before it became "prosperous to be just," the street cars of most of the New-York City railroad lines made no provision for the transportation of colored people. On the Sixth-avenue and one or two other lines, conveyances labeled "Colored persons allowed in this car" were run at long intervals, but on the Fourth-avenue and other East Side lines, not even this provision was made. Under these circumstances, Lizzie Jennings, a respectable colored woman, neatly dressed, cleanly, and of good appearance, the Superintendent of a colored Sunday-school, hailed a Fourth-avenue car and succeeded in obtaining a seat in it. The conductor took her fare, thereby tacitly admitting her right to be a passenger, but hardly had he done so when a drunken white ruffian, who was seated in the car, demanded: "Are you going to let that —— —— nigger ride in this car?"

"Oh, I guess it won't make any difference," said the conductor.

"Yes, but it will," replied the other; "I have paid my fare, and I want a decent ride, and I tell you you've got to put her out."

Thus appealed to the conductor went to the colored woman and asked her to leave the car; she refused to do so. The car still stopped. The conductor attempted to eject her by force. She resisted bravely, crying all the time:

"I have paid my fare and I am entitled to ride."

Her dress was almost torn from her back. Strong men stood by but gave her no assistance. Still she fought bravely for what she believed to be her right. The conductor could not eject her and was compelled to call for the aid of the Police. By their efforts the woman was dragged from the car.

The matter coming to the notice of a number of influential colored people, they desired to make it a test case, and applied to Mr. Arthur for advice. He at once espoused their cause and took their case before Justice Rockwell, in Brooklyn. When the trial came on the court-room was crowded almost to suffocation, and at one time serious trouble was threatened by those who believed that to seek justice for a black man was to do injustice to humanity.

Even the Judge seemed to share this opinion, for when the attorney handed him the papers in the case, he threw them upon the desk, with the exclamation:

"Pshaw! do you ask me to try a case against a corporation for the tort [the wrongful act] of its agent?"

In reply to this, Mr. Arthur plainly pointed out a portion of the Revised Statutes, under which there was an undoubted right of action. After examining it, the court concurred coordially with the counsel, the case was tried, and, much to the delight of the colored people, a verdict of $500 was rendered in favor of the plaintiff. The railroad company paid the judgment without further contest, and at once issued orders that thereafter colored people be allowed to ride upon its cars. Similar action was soon after taken by all the City railroad companies. At this there was great rejoicing among all the negroes in New-York, the Colored People's Legal Rights Association was established, and for many years afterward with much ceremony celebrated the anniversary of the trial which resulted as described.

IV.

OLD-TIME PRIMARIES.

There is much talk at the present time regarding the power of what is called "the machine" in politics, and the arrogant dictation of certain cliques of political leaders. Justifiable as are their criticisms now, they would, 25 or 30 years ago, have been a hundred-fold more so. At that period, and for some years afterward, the Whig Party was absolutely under the control, not of a clique, but of one man. Whig conventions were called simply to express his will, and it is a matter of record that on the eve of such gatherings Thurlow Weed, the all-powerful leader referred to, would call a number of his henchmen into a room of his hotel, and, with the full knowledge that his orders would be obeyed, dictate, even to the minutest detail, the programme to be carried out by the convention. There is much complaint now as to the manner in which primaries are conducted; yet the present plan of holding such meetings is perfection itself compared to that in vogue a quarter of a century ago. New primaries are controlled only too often by trickery and fraud; then they were managed mainly by brute force.

Organized gangs of ruffians were in the employ of every prominent politician, and it was their business to see that the party caucuses resulted as their masters desired. The tactics resorted to by these retainers were as effective as they were simple. If their respectable opponents happened to be in a majority, and the primaries seemed likely to go against them, it was their habit to station at intervals in the line of voters a number of their most reckless and powerful henchmen. At a given signal these gentlemen would knock the hats of their better class rivals down over their eyes, and by a liberal application of well-shod bred-owls in the fleshy part of their thighs and other soft places break up the line. Then the ballot-box was, of course, liberally and audibly stuffed with the tickets intended by the rough statesmen, and the result, naturally enough, was as they would have it. There is no doubt that the frequency of such occurrences, together with such incidents as the Lemmon slave case and the ejection of colored people from street railway cars, at last became decided, and made to bring about the formation of the Republican Party. In the organization of that party in Old State Chester A. Arthur took an active part, was a delegate to, and one of the signers of, the call for its first convention.

V.

THE DAYS OF WAR.

When the war broke out, Gen. Arthur occupied the ornamental position of Engineer-in-Chief on Gov. Morgan's staff, but immediately after the commencement of hostilities he was made Quartermaster-General, and in that position not only gained much knowledge of the secret history of the war, but by the promptness and energy of his action did much to distinguish himself and serve the State. Some of the incidents which he was occasionally be induced to relate regarding the time in question are of a most interesting character. During the first year of the rebellion, when, because of the Bisson and Sidell affair, the country seemed about to be plunged into a war with England, it will be remembered that there was great anxiety respecting the defenses of the Harbor of New-York. A plan adopted to make those defenses more secure necessitated the purchase of an immense quantity of timber, and, to consult with him in regard to such purchase, Gov. Morgan telegraphed Gen. Arthur to come to Albany. Arriving at the capital, he found the Governor very much troubled in regard to the proposed purchase. On the one hand, Mr. Morgan did not desire to leave the harbor defenseless, as it was, and, on the other, he was very anxious to avoid the responsibility of ordering the purchase of large quantities of material, which, if no war with England occurred, would, for all State purposes, be useless. Seeing his dilemma, and knowing the necessity for prompt action, Gen. Arthur took upon himself the responsibility in the name of the State, but without Executive authority, of securing the refusal of all the timber, round and square, in the lumber-yards of Troy and West Albany. This was to be rafted down the Hudson into New-York Harbor, but on the very next day the river became so choked with ice that such transportation was impossible. Not in the least discouraged by this fresh difficulty, Gen. Arthur came to New-York and purchased outright, in the name of the State, timber valued at more than $125,000. Soon afterward, however, the Mason-Sildell difficulty was adjusted, all thought of war with England at an end, and, as Gov. Morgan had feared, the immense quantity of timber purchased as described remained in the hands of the State officers, utterly valueless.

Mr. Truman, who was then a member of the State Senate, hearing of the transaction, made it the subject of much acrimonious discussion in the Legislature, and Gen. Arthur was telegraphed for by the Governor to come to Albany, and, if he could, to help the State officers out of their trouble. The General at once obeyed the order, and, arriving in Albany, found that there was pending in the Legislature a bill in regard to war expenditures by the State. To this bill he secured the addition of a clause providing that the proper officers might at their discretion sell and dispose of such material purchased for war purposes as remained on their hands unused. The bill, with this addition, was rushed through both houses, and was signed at once by the Governor. Under its provisions the timber was soon afterward sold at a profit to the State, and the criticisms of Mr. Truman and other gentlemen of his kind were effectively disarmed.

In the early days of the war it will be recalled that, under permission from the National Government, men of local prominence, but frequently of most unsavory character, were authorized to raise and organize independent regiments. So it came about that the streets, hotels, and public places of New-York were literally filled with Colonels, Majors, and Captains glittering with new uniforms and gold lace, but who had no real commands, and who did not acknowledge the authority of the State officers. One of the most notorious of this class of men was "Billy" Wilson, an emigrant runner, volunteer fireman, and rough, who had received authority from Washington to raise a regiment of Zouaves. Several hundred men of his own class rallied about him, and, refusing to accept the soldiers' rations provided for them by the Government, at first made appeals to the liberality, and then, growing bolder, organized raids upon the larders and liquor cellars, of the City restaurant keepers. Complaints of these outrages poured in upon the State authorities, and Gen. Arthur, representing the Governor, sent for Wilson and demanded that a stop should be put to the unlawful acts of his men. To this Wilson insolently replied:

"Neither you nor the Governor have anything to do with me. I am a Colonel in the United States service, and you've got no right to order me."

"You are not a Colonel," was Arthur's indignant response, "and you will not be until you have raised your regiment to its quota of men and received your commission."

"Well, I've got my shoulder-straps any way" said Wilson, "and as long as I wear them I don't want no orders from any of you fellows."

With this he was about to leave the office, when Gen. Arthur, a most powerful man, thoroughly aroused, sprang toward him with the exclamation,

"We'll make short work of your shoulder straps!" tore the Colonel's insignia from Wilson's shoulders, and had him placed in arrest.

This incident, together with others of the same sort, and the conflict which Gen. Butler, claiming to be an independent power, had with the State authorities of Massachusetts, led Gov. Morgan, at the suggestion of Gen. Arthur, to request the National Government that no further authority be conferred upon individuals to raise independent regiments. This request was complied with. Gov. Morgan was at the same time made a Major-General of United States Volunteers, and afterward the State of New-York, together with all the States, was allowed to exercise supervision over all troops raised within their borders.

VI.

AT SEA WITHOUT PROVISIONS.

One of the best illustrations of the lack of management, the hap-hazard fashion of transacting important State business, which prevailed during the early days of the war, is to be found in the manner in which the Ellsworth Zouaves were equipped and left New-York. The regiment in question was made up of men who prided themselves upon their strength, drill, and daring. It was, so to speak, an army unto itself, and, under the independent system of organization already explained, comprised not only a full complement of infantry companies, but also a battery of light artillery and a troop of cavalry. All the infantry companies were not only armed differently, as they desired, but they contained, in some cases, 120 men, or 50 more than was, at the time, the regulation complement. So armed, about 1,300 men in all, they were on their way down Broadway, after having received, amid great enthusiasm, a stand of colors, when orders were received through Gen. Arthur, from the War Department at Washington, to the effect that the regiment could not be mustered into the service or leave the City until it had reduced and equalized its companies.

In pursuance of this command, Gen. Arthur, acting as Quartermaster-General, issued instructions countermanding his original order for furnishing the troops with supplies while en route from New-York to the South. The officers of the regiment, however, paid no attention to the order from Washington further than to beg Gen. Wool, the United States Commandant, to rescind it. To their petition was added that of many influential citizens and ladies. Gen. Wool gave the necessary permission, the regiment marched on board the troop-ship, and it steamed down the harbor.

Of this occurrence, the Quartermaster-General was not informed for nearly an hour after the sailing of the ship; then an officer came into his head-quarters and said, casually,

"Well, the Firemen Zouaves have got off at last."

"Got off!" cried Arthur, in astonishment; "that's not possible. Orders have been received from Washington forbidding them to leave, and there is not a pound of provisions of any sort on the troop-ship."

This was only too true. The regiment had actually put to sea without food sufficient for one man for a day. But the Quartermaster-General was equal to the emergency. In 15 minutes he put himself in communication with an extensive contractor, made him an allowance of 15 cents extra for each ration, and ordered him to hire every tug he could lay hands on, secure rations for 1,300 men for five days, and hurry down the Bay after the transport. This was done, and the troop-ship, the officers of which had discovered the condition of their larder, having stopped on the way, was overtaken at the Narrows. The supplies were put on board, and the same night the regiment was fit last "off for the seat of war."

VII.

NEW-YORK THREATENED WITH RUIN.

In the present days of peace and prosperity very few people realize that the City of New-York, in the Spring of 1862, was threatened with total destruction. One Sunday morning during Sheridan's occupation of Winchester, Gen. Grant, who was then the oldest Infantry officer in the United States regular service, flushed and out of breath, hurried into the Inspector-General's office, then occupied by Chester A. Arthur. For a moment he was unable to speak, and Arthur, offering him a chair, asked:

"What is the world has happened, General?"

"The rebel ram Merrimac! the rebel ram Merrimac!" incoherently gasped the other.

"Well, what about her?"

"I have a dispatch from Gen. McClellan that she has sunk two United States ships—that she is coming to New-York to shell the City—may be expected at any moment—I'm so out of breath running to tell you the news I can hardly speak."

"*Running* to tell me the news!" exclaimed Arthur; "why in heaven didn't you hire a carriage?"

"Hire a carriage!" replied the old Army officer, lifting his hands in amazement; "hire a carriage! Why, that would cost me $2 50. I can't afford to spend so much out of my own pocket, and if I made such an expenditure on account of the Government, it would take all the rest of my official life to explain why I did so."

There was very much more truth than poetry in the latter part of old Gen. Loomis's remark. In those same early days of the war, it is a matter of record that an expenditure of $2 50 by an Army officer for an irregular purpose, of no matter what character, and involving no matter what momentous results, would have furnished months of employment to half a dozen clerks in the War Department.

The State officers were not so bound by red tape, and when, in addition to his first communication, Gen. Loomis informed Gen. Arthur that McClellan had ordered him to place his shore batteries in position and send vessels to the Lower Bay to watch for the appearance of the enemy, the latter lost no time in sending dozens of messengers, in carriages, in all directions to see that the order was carried out.

Unfortunately, however, prompt action on the part of the Inspector-General availed but little, for it was soon discovered that New-York, for all practical purposes, was absolutely defenseless against such a naval monster as the Merrimac. The "shore batteries" spoken of by Gen. McClellan in his dispatch did not exist. There were no heavy cannon in position on the so-called fortifications, and nearly all the cannon in the defenses at the Narrows, were marked "shell guns," indicating that they could not be used to throw solid shot, and, as Loomis assured the Inspector-General, even for these guns there was not two rounds of powder in the harbor magazines. To remedy this alarming condition of things, Gen. Arthur set to work with every possible energy. All the available Militia companies were put into the harbor forts, and a powder-schooner arriving, providentially, from Connecticut, ample ammunition was soon served out. Luckily, as the event proved, all these precautions were unnecessary, for, a few hours after the arrival of the first alarming news—news which never reached the general public, which, on that bright Spring Sunday, was represented by crowds of well-dressed people on the principal avenues—Gen. Arthur received a dispatch from Gen. McClellan, telling him that the Merrimac had been sunk by the Monitor, and that the danger to New-York was past.

VIII.

A FEW POLITICAL SECRETS.

Passing from these military incidents of the war-time to those of a political character, it may be of interest to narrate upon how slight a pivot turned the nomination for the vice-Presidency in the Convention of 1864, when Lincoln was renominated for a second term. In that convention, the majority of the delegates from New-York favored the nomination of Daniel S. Dickinson for Vice-President. A very strong minority, controlled by Seward, advocated Andrew Johnson for the position. The night before the meeting, in a caucus of the New-York delegation, George William Curtis made one of his characteristically-eloquent addresses in favor of Dickinson and against the dictation of Seward. Had the matter been allowed to rest here, Dickinson would undoubtedly have been nominated; but, as the caucus was about to break up, an indiscreetly-enthusiastic opponent of Mr. Seward arose and denounced him and his supporters in language too vile for publication. Naturally much incensed at what they regarded as most unwarrantable and unjust treatment, the friends of Seward and Johnson went to work with an energy which they might not otherwise have been aroused to display, and, among the Western and other delegations, won many votes to their side.

When the Convention met next day, it was found that the New-York and Pennsylvania delegations were seated in close proximity to each other; the friends of Dickinson from New-York being almost immediately beside the chief men of Pennsylvania. Simon Cameron, the leader of the latter State, at first favored the renomination of Hannibal Hamlin, but when he found that he could not bring about the success of his favorite, he instructed a trusted messenger to say to the New-York delegates that his friends would unite with them, if they so desired, in the nomination of Dickinson. His messenger, in the bustle and confusion of the Convention, found it impossible to reach that portion of the New-York delegation which was nearest to him, and was obliged to walk by a roundabout course to the other end, where, as it happened, the Seward men were seated in a body. To them, knowing nothing of their preferences, he gave Cameron's message, and they at once appreciating the importance of what was going on, assured him that their choice was Johnson and not Dickinson. Then Gen. Arthur, Thomas Murphy, and others of the Seward party went to Cameron and among the Pennsylvania men, prevented them from uniting on Dickinson as they had intended to do, and so secured the nomination of Johnson. It was by these men and the Tennessee tailor became, first the Vice-President, and then, upon the assassination of Lincoln, the President of the United States.

IX.

HOW BLAINE WAS DEFEATED.

In this connection, that is to say, in connection with the general subject of Presidential conventions and the insignificant events upon which their results sometimes hinge, it will not be amiss to relate a most interesting and hitherto unpublished incident in regard to the last National Republican Convention, held at Cincinnati. At a dinner party in Washington, last Winter, Senator Blaine, with that tact and good sense for which he is proverbial, laughingly replying to the toast of an injudicious friend who had hailed him as "The man who had come within an inch of being President," said:

"Yes, and there were just forty things that prevented me from getting that inch."

It is just possible that the following incident may have been in his mind at the time:

The night before the Cincinnati Convention made its nomination for the Presidency it became apparent to a number of the sagacious political leaders from New-York that if the Pennsylvania delegation should at any time, early in the proceedings, vote solidly for Blaine, as it was likely to do, his nomination could not be prevented. Before coming to Cincinnati, the Pennsylvania representatives had been instructed, whenever a majority should so demand, to vote as a unit. It was subsequently agreed that a complimentary vote should at first be given to the then Governor, Hartranft. In this later decision certain of Mr. Blaine's opponents saw their opportunity.

The Pennsylvania men had no thought that Hartranft would receive any considerable vote from any State other than their own, but a number of Blaine's opponents, in order to prevent them from breaking to the Maine favorite, arranged that he (Hartranft) should, from ballot to ballot, receive an increasing vote. By this means, the Pennsylvania men, a majority of whom were warm-hearted enthusiastically for Blaine, were for a time bound in honor to stand by their original candidate. At last, however, two of them became disgusted with what they subsequently denounced as a trick, and demanded the right to vote as individuals. This right the Chairman, Mr. McPherson, himself a member of the delegation, and a friend of Senator Blaine, accorded them. Unfortunately for his cause, however, his decision was not well-timed. The tide in favor of Hayes had begun to set in. Of course, under the ruling of the Chair, the Pennsylvania delegation was not bound by majority rule to vote as a unit, and so, when the final ballot came, Blaine lost many votes that he would otherwise have secured. The arrangement by which the New-York politicians secured a rising vote for Hartranft may well be placed as chief among the causes which prevented James G. Blaine from being President of the United States. Upon such small hinges do great events sometimes hang.

E. C.

GENERAL TELEGRAPH NEWS

GEN. GRANT IN THE SOUTH.

CORDIAL RECEPTION IN AUGUSTA—DISAPPOINTMENT IN CHARLESTON.

AUGUSTA, Ga., Dec. 31.—Gen. Grant and party arrived here to-night over the Central Short Line Railroad, and were received by a large crowd at the depot, notwithstanding rumors that they would not reach the city to-night. They were escorted to their hotel by President Wilson of the Port Royal Railroad Company, and the Mayor and Councilmen of the city. An informal reception continued to a late hour. To-morrow a reception will be tendered the party, and the visitors will be shown over the city. The reception here is cordial and hearty. All along the route white and black residents thronged the depots and cheered lustily. At Charlotte, N. C., a deputation of citizens waited on Gen. Grant and tried to prevail on him to stay over. At Columbia, S. C., the Mayor and Chief-Justice Wilbur, of South Carolina, tendered a banquet, but the party could not wait. At 11 o'clock to-morrow the party will leave here for Beaufort, S. C., to attend the emancipation celebration, and from there will go to Savannah. Augusta is alive to-night, and to-morrow Gen. Grant's reception will be attended by thousands.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Dec. 31.—The announcement from Washington published in a morning paper, that Gen. Grant would pass through this city, this evening, caused a general stir among the inhabitants, and attracted many visitors from neighboring villages. No steps were taken by the city authorities to accord Gen. Grant a formal reception, but extensive preparations had been made by the Federal officers and many colored societies to give a warm welcome. As evening drew nigh, crowds of eager faces peered through the doors and railings of the depot of the North-eastern Railroad. About 6 o'clock the following telegram was received: "Grant will arrive in Augusta to-night. Will leave Augusta at 11 o'clock to-morrow. Will arrive at Yemassee at 3 o'clock, and from there will go to Savannah." When the purport of the dispatch became known the crowd slowly retired amid a general murmur of disappointment and regret. The General has many stanch admirers in this region among Democrats, who expressed a determination to-day to vote for him if nominated by the Republican Party. His chief strength, however, lies among the colored people, who revere and idolize him.

CRIME AND ITS RESULTS.

PROCEEDINGS IN CRIMINAL CASES—OFFENSES REPORTED YESTERDAY.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 31.—The circumstances connected with the death of Emma Meehan, who either fell or was thrown down a flight of stairs by her husband, William Meehan, on Sunday evening, were investigated this morning by the Deputy Coroner. The jury returned a verdict that the woman came to her death from violence—fracture of the skull—the result of being rushed down stairs by her husband. The latter was committed to prison to await the action of the District Attorney.

LACKAWAXEN, Penn., Dec. 31.—The residence of W. S. Russ, a prominent merchant of Deposit, N.Y., was entered by thieves a few nights ago, who, passing into the sleeping apartment, took from Mr. Russ's pocket his store key, safe key, and a large amount of money. The thieves then went to the store, opened the front door, passed in, and robbed the safe. Here they secured a quantity of silver coin and a valuable gold watch and chain. The thieves then locked the front door on the inside, and made their escape through a back door. The principal operator is believed to be a negro, who had resided in that place for some time, but who has not been seen since the robbery. It is believed the burglars used chloroform, as Mr. Russ did not awake until late the following morning.

HARRISBURG, Penn., Dec. 31.—The Governor to-day issued a warrant authorizing the Sheriff of Philadelphia to transfer to the New-Jersey authorities George Pickering, who murdered an oysterman in Camden recently.

CINCINNATI, Ohio, Dec. 31.—Eph. Holland, who was arrested in New-York last September charged with a rock at Hasel, in a pedestrian match, and a fellow-gambler named Arty Duffy, were attacked yesterday at a most frequented corner of Vine-street by a party of gamblers. Holland fled, leaving his friend to be severely licked about the head until the Police interfered. No serious injury was done; but it is thought the matter will not end so, as the sporting men here charge Holland and Duffy with "squealing," and being responsible for raids on gambling-houses.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—An agent of the secret service telegraphs to the Treasury Department from Stratford, Ontario, Canada, that August and George Noel, brothers, have been arrested for passing and having in their possession counterfeit five-dollar notes of the National State Bank of Troy, N.Y., August Noel is a hotel keeper and a prominent politician.

HUDSON, N. Y., Dec. 31.—James Cummings was arrested at Valatie, yesterday, charged with robbery at North Pownal, Vt., and is held to await the arrival of officers from that State. It is believed that the arrest will lead to the discovery of a large gang of expert burglars.

CANTON, Ohio, Dec. 31.—The motions for new trials in the cases of George Mann and Gustave Ohr, for the murder of John Whatmough, of Philadelphia, in June last, were heard by Judge Moyers, of the Court of Common Pleas, this afternoon, and overruled. The prisoners were sentenced to be hanged on Friday, May 7, 1880, between the hours of 11 A. M. and 1 P. M.

NORWICH, Conn., Dec. 31.—E. B. Learned, late Cashier of the Uncas National Bank, was arrested here to-day charged with embezzling $35,000. He was taken before United States Commissioner Tenney and, waiving examination, was held for his appearance on Feb. 16 in bonds of $15,000, which he obtained. The arrest was made under directions from Washington, and was not pressed by the bank's officers. Mr. Learned is confident that he can straighten up all the doubtful accounts if he is given time.

BUFFALO, N. Y., Dec. 31.—Michael Maher, Street Commissioner-elect, was arrested to-day on a warrant sworn out by George W. Mason, the present Deputy Street Commissioner, who charges Maher with illegal voting at the last election. He is a leading politician in Canada in 1867, 1868, and 1869, and swore at the last election that he lived in Buffalo since 1846. He will have an examination on Jan. 8.

MARSHALL, Texas, Dec. 31.—The Currie habeas corpus case was called at 9 A. M. to-day in the District Court. Some dilatory skirmishing on preliminary motions took place between the counsel. After consultation between Currie and his lawyers, the latter concluded, as the prosecution was sufficiently prepared to announce itself ready, that it would be prudent to withdraw the application. The courtroom was filled at an early hour. Among the people present were General Superintendent Noble and General Passenger Agent R. W. Thompson, Jr., of the Texas and Pacific Railroad Company, and Mayor Currie, of Shreveport, the prisoner's brother. Barrymore and Miss Cummins failed to appear, but as their defense was so successfully met by the prosecution, their absence was immaterial.

EASTON, Penn., Dec. 31.—John Burns stabbed his wife last night while she was asleep in bed. Her recovery is doubtful. Burns was arrested. He attempted to commit suicide, but his injuries are very slight.

INCREASED BUSINESS AT ST. LOUIS.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Dec. 31.—A condensed statement of the increased business in some of the leading articles of trade this year over last, compiled from official figures made up by Secretary Morgan, of the Merchants' Exchange, shows the following among the many favorable results and indications of prosperity: An increase in the receipts of wheat over last year, in round numbers, of 3,000,000 bushels; corn, 4,000,000 bushels; oats, 1,000,000 bushels; total receipts of all kinds of grain, 45,000,000 bushels, an increase of 10,000,000 bushels. The receipts of cotton since Sept. 1, the beginning of the cotton year, are 5,000 bales more than for all the preceding cotton years. The amount of wheat shipped by river for foreign exports, by way of New-Orleans, is 12,000,000 bushels, an increase over last year of over 500,000 bushels. Amount of corn by same route, 3,500,000 bushels; increase, 700,000 bushels. Much more grain would have gone down the river but for the unusually low water and shortage of tonnage. During the past Autumn, the hardware business has increased 50 per cent in volume and 20 per cent in values; the whole sale dry goods trade, 25 per cent in volume; in values, nominally; the retail dry goods trade, 25 per cent in volume, in values nominally; the saddlery business, 33 per cent. in volume, and 25 per cent in values; the grocery trade, 20 per cent in volume and 10 per cent. in values; the iron business, 150 per cent. in volume, and 100 per cent. in values. The value of buildings erected is nearly double what it has been for the preceding four years. Number of steamers arrived, 49 this year, 2,240; coal-boats and barges, 1,414. Number of steamers departed, 2,381. Amounts of freight shipped by steamer, 676,245 tons.

ARMY AND NAVY INTELLIGENCE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—Three months' leave of absence has been granted to Lieut.-Gen. Sheridan, with permission to travel beyond the limits of the United States for the benefit of his health. During Gen. Sheridan's absence from his command the usual reports and returns will continue to be sent, as heretofore, to his head-quarters at Chicago, and such as need higher action will be sent from there to Gen. Sherman at Washington. When time is material, the commanding Generals of the departments composing the Military Division of the Missouri may correspond direct with Gen. Sherman through the Adjutant-General of the Army, as the same time sending copies of the correspondence to the Division Head-quarters, at Chicago.

A general court-martial has been convened to meet at Fallowes Barracks, Md., on Jan. 5, 1880, or as soon after as practicable, for the trial of such prisoners as may be brought before it. The court-martial will be composed of the following officers: Lieut.-Col. J. A. Wood, Tenth Cavalry; First Lieut. C. S. Gordon, Sixth Cavalry; Second Lieut. Leighton Finley, Tenth Cavalry; Second Lieut. M. D. Parker, Ninth Cavalry, and First Lieut. Charles Morton, Third Cavalry. The last-mentioned officer will act as Judge Advocate.

By direction of the President, Col. Stewart Van Vliet, Assistant Quartermaster-General, will, during the temporary absence of Brig.-Gen. M. C. Meigs, act as Quartermaster-General.

The leave of absence granted to Second Lieut. William Lassiter, Sixteenth Infantry, is extended five months.

Lieut. J. T. Sullivan is ordered to special duty in the Bureau of Navigation, and Cadet Engineer W. H. Boggs, to special duty at Wilmington, Del.

The United States ship Nipsic left Norfolk last evening for St. Thomas and Venezuela. The Tallapoosa left Washington yesterday on a trip to New-York and Boston.

TIDINGS OF MARINE LOSS.

DISASTERS TO VESSELS AT HOME AND ABROAD.

LONDON, Dec. 31.—The American ship Orient, Capt. Allen, which arrived at Liverpool from New-Orleans on Dec. 23, lost her bowsprit, and had her outwater and stern damaged in a collision.

The British ship Alexander McKenzie, Capt. Homewood, from New-York Dec. 4, for Antwerp, which was yesterday reported stranded near Ostend, has become a total loss. The crew was saved.

The British bark Black Prince, Capt. Tyrell, from New-Orleans for Amsterdam, previously reported ashore at Nieuwe Diepe, has broken up.

The British ship Chinaman, Capt. Beadle, at Queenstown from San Francisco, came in collision with the British steamer Fifty-nine, Capt. Knight, from Baltimore Nov. 22 for Rouen, by way of Havre, by which the former vessel had jib-boom and head-gear damaged. The steamer's steering apparatus was also damaged.

The Italian bark Barbara Gallino, Capt. Pinarelli, from Fleetwood Dec. 18 for New-York, lost her jib-boom and head-gear in collision with the British ship Colonial Empire, Capt. Symmes, from Pensacola Nov. 10, which arrived at Liverpool Dec. 28.

The Spanish steamer Segundo, Interoni, Capt. Sagrista, from Charleston Nov. 28, for Barcelona, has put into St. Michael, with her machinery damaged.

The British ship Otago, Capt. Cringle, before reported at Bremen from Philadelphia, has been damaged by ice.

The German bark Jason, Capt. Albrecht, before reported at Bremen from New-York, has been beaached and lost all of water.

FALMOUTH, England, Dec. 31.—The Anna Casto, Capt. Repetto, from New-York for DUNKIRK, has arrived here leaky. She was in collision in port, losing stanchions and bulwarks, and sustaining other damages.

PHILADELPHIA, Penn., Dec. 31.—The schooner Altavella, Holt, from St. Pierre, for Wilmington, N. C., reports, Dec. 25, off Frying Pan Shoals, encountered a severe west-south-west gale, with heavy cross-seas, and lost flying jib-boom and all attached.

THE PRESIDENT'S NEW YEAR'S RECEPTION.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—The President and Mrs. Hayes, and the Vice-President, will hold a reception at the Executive Mansion on New-Year's Day. The following is the programme: At 11 A. M., the members of the Cabinet and the Diplomatic Corps; at 11:15 A. M., the Chief-Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States; at 11:30 A. M., Senators and Representatives in Congress, the Judges of the Court of Claims, the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, the Judges of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, ex-members of the Cabinet, and ex-Ministers of the United States; at 12 M., the officers of the Army and Navy; at 12:30 P. M., the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, the Commissioner of Agriculture, the Assistant Secretaries of the departments, the Assistant Postmaster-General, the Solicitor-General, the Assistant Attorney-General, the Superintendent of the Coast Survey, and the heads of bureaus of the several departments; at 12:45 P. M., the associated soldiers of the war of 1812, the associated veterans of the war of 1846, the members of the Oldest Inhabitants' Association of the District of Columbia, and the Grand Army of the Republic; at 1 P. M., reception of citizens, which will terminate at 2 P. M.

THE LATE ASA PACKER'S ESTATE.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 31.—An "inventory and appraisement of the goods and chattels, rights and credits which were of Asa Packer, late of Philadelphia," was to-day filed with the Register of Wills. It shows the following: Stocks, bonds, &c., $5,816,927 50; bonds and mortgages, $22,522 76; furniture, $4,000; carriage, $250; interest in E. P. Wilbur & Co., $7,500; real estate, $268,900; book accounts, $455,774 11; total, $6,573,874 36. The stock in the Lehigh Valley Railroad Company was appraised at $37 50 a share, the price at which the stock sold for several months succeeding Judge Packer's death. The current price, $52 50 a share—would swell the total present value of the stock owned by the estate to $7,500,000.

MINING VIEWS OF SENATOR JONES.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 31.—Senator Jones was asked to-day regarding an alleged interview in the East which went the rounds of the papers, and represented that the Senator stated that the Comstock was "played out" and that Colorado afforded a much better field for mining operations than Nevada. Senator Jones declared that he had no recollection of ever having been interviewed on the subject, and certainly never expressed such sentiments as that interview attributed to him. He was sure of this, because he never entertained such sentiments, and a man would not be likely to misrepresent himself as to the present prospects of the Comstock. Mr. Jones said: "I have a firm belief that next year will be prolific in important developments, and that they will be made at various points. The outlook was never more hopeful."

AN EXCHANGE'S BUSINESS INTERRUPTED.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 31.—There was no business done at the Corn and Flour Exchange to-day. Immediately after the first call and just when a few of the members had taken their places in the ring, the door opened and the Fifth Regiment Band marched in, and that precluded all business operations. Speeches were made by prominent members, congratulatory of the present general prosperity of business, and all the national songs were sung. The time was thus spent until the hour for closing, when a procession numbering about 600 persons was formed, and, headed by the band, marched to and around the site selected for the new building of the Exchange, nearly opposite the Post Office. There was nothing done in any of the markets.

IRISH RELIEF IN CANADA.

MONTREAL, Dec. 31.—The full text of a letter from the Irish Roman Catholic clergy of this city to a committee of the Irish societies, in reference to a proposal to collect funds for the relief of the distressed people of Ireland, is published, and points out that in Ireland itself, where the nature and extent of the want must be well and correctly known, no general movement has as far, taken place to draw the proposed favored portions of the country. They think, therefore, that the proposal to collect funds in Montreal for the relief of certain portions of Ireland is premature.

WESTERN REVENUE RECEIPTS.

PEORIA, Ill., Dec. 31.—The revenue receipts of the Peoria district for December are $1,057,950 96; for the year ending to-day, $8,624,052.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 31.—William Woodcock, United States Revenue Collector for this district, collected $101,435 18 during December, an increase of $30,023 50 over the same month last year. The increase for the past six months over the corresponding months of last year is $44,892.

LEADVILLE TRADE REPORT.

LEADVILLE, Col., Dec. 31.—The *Chronicle's* annual trade report of Leadville for the past year shows that the million and ore product was $12,082,908 61; the mercantile trade of the city, $20,000,000, and sales of mining property for sums over $500, $35,350,940.

LOSSES BY FIRE.

The Fire Inspector of Baltimore has compiled the damage by fires in that city for 1879. The whole number of fires was 299, causing damage aggregating $196,854 61. No record of the burning fluid was kept, but the Inspector states that the whole loss above insurance will not exceed $30,000. The greatest loss occurred in January, amounting to $74,198 34, and the smallest in April, $1,801. During the year 25 persons were burned by coal-oil, of whom 6 died.

The finishing-shop, planing-mill and blacksmith's shop of the Watson Car Works, at Chattanooga, Tenn., were burned at 10 o'clock last night. These buildings were totally destroyed, and machine-shop was damaged. The loss will reach $50,000; insured for $26,000 in the Hamburg, of Bremen; the Continental, of New-York; the Lancashire, and a French corporation unknown.

A fire broke out last night from a defective flue in the basement of Nos. 239 and 241 State-avenue, occupied by Bluxome & Co., dry goods dealers. The flames were extinguished in a few minutes, but the damage done by fire, smoke, and water, is estimated at from $9,000 to $12,000.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 31.—A person known for 25 years as Charles Parkhurst, who has led the life of a stage-driver and farmer during this time in California, died last Sunday near Watsonville, when it became known for the first time that the deceased person was a woman.

MONTREAL, Dec. 31.—A writ of injunction restraining the Board of Management of the Temporalities Fund of the Presbyterian Church in Canada from disposing of surplus has been issued by Justice Jetté. A notice of appeal was at once served, and it is likely the case will be ultimately taken to the Judicial Committee of the English

DISPUTED TITLE TO A PIER

THE CITY TO TAKE FORCIBLE POSSESSION.

A LONG CONTEST REPUTING THE OWNERSHIP OF THE PIER AT FOOT OF SIXTY-FIRST-STREET, EAST RIVER—EX-ALDERMAN TOWLE'S CLAIM TO THE PROPERTY.

Corporation Counsel Whitney yesterday went to the Dock Commissioners' to opinion regarding the ownership of the pier at the foot of Sixty-first-street, East River. The title to the pier has been in dispute for about 30 years, and the question has been before the Corporation Counsel for nearly two years. The claimant of the property is ex-Alderman Jeremiah Towle, who seems to have had undisputed possession of it until about 1847, at which time an attempt was made by the City to obtain possession of it. In the early part of 1849 a committee was appointed by the Board of Aldermen to investigate the matter. The majority of that committee reported that the City owned the pier, and the minority came to the conclusion that it was justly the property of Mr. Towle. Mr. Willis Hall, at that time Counsel to the Corporation, gave his opinion that the pier was the property of the City. Corporation Counsel Whitney, in his opinion, coincides with his predecessor of 1849, and with the majority of the committee of that year, and places himself in the conclusion that the pier belongs to the City. He also embodies in his opinion a brief history of the pier, which, he says, is one that was rebuilt, or enlarged, or, perhaps, extended, from the pier which existed there as long ago as 1807. At all events, a pier is shown at that point on a map of that year, which was not erected in 1807, which pier appears to be included within the bounds of the City. In 1826, the property in the immediate neighborhood was bought by certain parties with the intention of dividing it among themselves. Mr. Towle has now in his possession two deeds, from which it appears that the understanding was that the vendor should convey the several lots to the respective purchasers, but the lands reserved on the City maps for streets were to be conveyed to three of the parties as Trustees, to be held for the benefit of all, and when the streets were opened, to divide the award among the adjoining lot-owners. One of these deeds is the one conveying the streets to the Trustees. The other deed conveys to the same Trustees the water lots on the property, in trust, to be held for the benefit of all, to be used only for wharves, docks, but with power to sell, and if sold, the proceeds to be divided among the owners of the other lots. These lots include, in the map of the property, the whole water-front east of the centre line of Avenue A, including the pier.

In 1828, the owners of this property petitioned to have Sixty-first-street opened. Mr. Towle claims that the petition only asked to have the street opened from 2 third-avenue to Avenue A. As a matter of fact, however, the Common Council ordered the street to be opened to the East River. Commissioners were appointed, the street was opened, and their action was confirmed by the Common Council. In their report the Commissioners said it would be necessary for them to take (among others) strips of land, and which is in fact, the strip included between the north and south lines of Sixty-first-street, the pier, and the old post road, and the other edge of the pier, as it then stood. This line is described by direction and distance, and goes directly around the pier, which, as laid down on the damage map, was very irregular in shape. Both distance and direction are correct, and with this map, and with the evidence the belief in the mind of Mr. Whitney that there can be no doubt that the report of the Commissioners so made and confirmed included the pier in the street, and that by that confirmation the pier became a part of the street. The report of the Commissioners further stated that the title to the land included in the line of the Trustees before mentioned, and that the amount of the damage was $2,000. And just here is where the point in controversy comes in. Mr. Towle claims that the Commissioners had no power to open the street below Avenue A, and that the matter was before the Common Council in 1847-8, he produced affidavits, made by two of the Commissioners who opened the street, setting forth that they did not include the value of the pier then existing there in their assessment of damages; in fact, that they did not take the pier into account at all. At the time in question, the street ended at the westerly line of Avenue A. These positions, however, are both controverted by Mr. Whitney. They were ordered, he says, to take the land to the East River, and no matter what their intention was, they did take it.

Mr. Whitney, the Corporation Counsel says, claims title to the pier, in the first place, under a tax lease from the City for 45 years, dated Oct. 12, 1844. He is not certain, however, that the tax lease actually covers the pier. The only description of the property in the lease is that it is Lot No. 18 in the Map of Farms, map. The pier had been a small part of Lot No. 18, but as Mr. Whitney has not found the tax maps in use in 1835, he is unable to decide whether or not, after Sixty-first-street was opened, the pier was, by mistake, included in Lot No. 18, as a private pier, or, perhaps, extended, at all events, he says, a tax could not be laid on a public street, and a sale for such a tax would not convey a title. Mr. Towle also claims to own the fee. His claim is that certain taxes being laid on Lot No. 18, and being in default, he, at the request of the surviving Trustee, advanced the money to pay them and took a mortgage upon the pier and land, which was given him as his security, that the mortgage not being paid, it was foreclosed, and the property sold and bought in by him, and he claims to own the property in fee under the deed from the Trustee, and Mr. Whitney says, that the Trustees had no right to mortgage the public street and no title to that part of Lot No. 18. Mr. Whitney concludes thus:

"In view of all these facts, I can only reaffirm the opinion of the former Counsel of the Corporation, Mr. Willis Hall, and the opinion of the majority of the committee of the Board of Aldermen, that Mr. Towle has no right whatever to the pier.

Dock Commissioner Vanderpoel, when asked what the effect of the opinion would be, not only as regards the pier, but all property which the City claims to be property now in possession of, and claimed by private individuals, said he had no doubt it would be found, on investigation, that there were many other pieces of property in the same condition, and that the effect would be to dispose of the whole question of squatting on public property by private individuals. They should, he said, institute an investigation into the subject, and ascertain what property, if any, had been taken from the City by private parties in much the same manner. There had been, he said, a pier at the foot of Sixty-first-street for more than 50 years, and during that time Jeremiah Towle had claimed to own it and had collected a large amount of money for wharfage. In fact, the City had paid him a large amount of wharfage, when it used the pier as a means of transfer to Blackwell's Island. It was, he said, an important point on the East River, and frequently in a day 20 schooners could be seen lying in the neighborhood waiting for a chance to unload. Being an ex-Alderman, Mr. Towle has succeeded, heretofore, in bluffing the Common Council off whenever they have attempted to get possession of the pier. "Now," Mr. Vanderpoel said, "we shall take immediate possession, and notify Mr. Towle to pay over to us all the money heretofore collected by him for the use of the pier.

Corporation Counsel Whitney, when asked whether the City would take any action to recover the money heretofore collected by Mr. Towle for wharfage, said: "The main thing is possession of the property. The improvements have been made, the pier built, &c., by the authority of the property. Mr. Towle has no title, and there would be no particular object in a suit against him on the part of the City for the past rents. His claim would be as large as ours, I imagine. I think the property clearly belongs to the City. The Dock Department will take possession of it, I suppose, and leave the claimant to sue us, if he is so advised."

POLICEMEN ON TRIAL.

A CONFLICT OF TESTIMONY—PERJURY SOMEWHERE.

At the Police trials yesterday, before Commissioner Voorhis, Patrolman Edward J. Kennedy, of the Fifteenth Precinct, was charged with having been in the unlicensed liquor store of John Lynch, No. 24 West Third-street, at 11:20 o'clock P. M. on Dec. 14, while he was on patrol duty, and having played pool and drank beer and whisky while in the place. He was also charged with having been in the place from 1:30 to 2 A. M. on the 15th of December, abetting in violations of the Excise law, and failing to arrest the proprietor of the place or his barkeeper. Patrolman Peter Kenny, of the same precinct, was also charged with a like offense. The charges were preferred by Samuel and Sidney H. Conklin, in the employment of the Society for the Prevention of Crime, and the prosecution was carried on by Mr. D. J. Whitney, the agent of the society. The brothers Conklin testified that they went to the place at the time indicated in the complaint and saw Kennedy and Kenny there. Kennedy played pool in the back room and drank twice with the proprietor and the scorer; Kennedy paid for the whisky. They also swore that Kenny entered the place in full uniform at about 2 o'clock in the morning, and drank with some of the parties in the place. While Kennedy was playing pool, a disorderly man entered the store and the officer threatened to arrest him. The officers, on their own behalf, denied in the most positive terms that they were in the place at all. Lynch, the proprietor of the place, also swore that neither of the officers were in the place. Patrolman Kenny swore that he saw Kennedy at the station-house at midnight, and Patrolman Moore testified that he met him at 12:45 A. M. at the walking-match. Two citizens also testified that they saw the officer at the match. The case occupied the attention of the Commissioner for several hours, and the decision is reserved.

Patrolman Mehr, of the Seventh Precinct, who is sixty-half feet-hundred-pounds, shot the dog of John Slattery, in Madison-street, near Cherry-street, Dec. 12, was before Commissioner MacLean yesterday. The testimony produced was the same as that given before Coroner Woltman during the inquest. No new facts were developed, and the case was laid over until the result of the criminal charge against the officer was reached.

LETTERS TO BE STOPPED.

Postmaster James received yesterday from Postmaster-General Key an order requiring the Postmaster to withhold from delivery special or money orders addressed to the firm of E. Foster Wells & Co., of No. 33 Wall-street and No. 12 Broad-street, in this City. This order was issued on a complaint of the firm, in which it was alleged that frauds were being perpetrated by the firm, and that the firm made use of the mails for the purpose of carrying on a fraudulent business. The firm is represented to be a "Lawrence & Co., of No. 19 and 21 Exchange-place," the bogus stock-brokers, an account of whose dealings, together with the methods employed by other similar firms, whose mails are also interdicted, was published in yesterday's TIMES. Postmaster James is instructed to return the money-orders to the parties sending them, and to stamp registered letters with the word "fraudulent" whenever they are found addressed to any of the firms in question. An additional order, also, was received instructing the Postmaster to withhold the ordinary letters addressed to Lawrence & Co., or under any of the firm's aliases, and to send them to the Dead-letter Office with the word "fictitious" stamped on the envelopes.

THE APPROPRIATIONS FOR 1880.

WHAT IT COSTS TO MAINTAIN THE CITY GOVERNMENT FOR A YEAR.

The Board of Apportionment yesterday adopted the final estimates for the year 1880. The following table shows the amount appropriated for the expenses of each department, as well as the amount appropriated for a like purpose last year:

Object and Purpose.	Amount appropriated for 1879.	Amount appropriated for 1880.
The Common Council	$112,260	$106,450
The Mayoralty	46,000	46,000
The Department of Finance	252,600	251,000
State Taxes	3,751,062	3,571,523
Interest on the City debt	8,760,154	8,459,312
Redemption of the City debt	1,154,000	1,151,000
Armories and drill-rooms, rents	62,250	39,700
Rents, (leases in force)	61,200	55,539
Judgments	450,000	600,000
The Law Department	153,500	161,150
The Department of Public Works	1,748,260	2,049,600
The Department of Public Parks	478,900	563,500
The Department of Buildings	71,500	65,000
The Department of Public Charities and Correction	1,257,000	1,248,888
The Health Department	189,000	231,540
The Police Department (proper)	3,358,100	3,282,740
The Police Department (for street-cleaning)	600,000	825,000
The Fire Department	1,254,970	1,307,670
The Department of Taxes and Assessments	107,900	107,800
The Board of Education	3,400,000	3,500,000
The College of the City of New-York	140,000	140,000
Advertising, printing, stationery, &c.	187,900	152,800
Salaries—City courts	326,300	327,800
Salaries—Police Judiciary	962,488	867,850
Coroners' fees	70,000	46,000
Sheriff's fees	43,000	40,000
Election expenses	115,000	177,100
Miscellaneous	187,079	158,914
Asylums, reformatories, and charitable institutions	932,000	926,741
Total	$20,747,750	$28,643,991
Deduct estimated revenues of general fund	2,500,000	1,500,000
	$27,747,750	$28,143,991

The amount appropriated for 1880 shows an increase over the estimate of 1879 of $395,241. This increase is made up of new appropriations for the erection of buildings and other purposes, as follows:

Expenses on City real estate	$25,000
Seventh Regiment new armory fund	15,000
For purchase of furniture and fixtures belonging to Seventh Regiment	24,500
Claims payable under special acts of Legislature	19,200
Sinking fund for the Croton Aqueduct	150,000
Expense of laying four-foot Croton mains to replace six-foot pipes in Ninety-third-street, North-avenue, Eighty-fifth-street, to Central Park Reservoir	60,000
Laying Croton pipe, formerly paid from the proceeds of City bonds	250,000
Water supply, Twenty-fourth Ward	12,900
Maintenance of Southern Boulevard and Southwick-avenue, in Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth Wards	12,500
Laying new walks and repairing old walks in Central and other City parks	55,000
For the erection of new buildings by the Department of Public Charities and Correction	79,800
Inspection of tenement-houses by Board of Health	16,000
For purchase of steam-tugs, scows, and additional apparatus to be used in cleaning the streets by the Police Department	185,000
For repairs of fire-engine houses	20,000
For pay of Inspectors, Poll Clerks, and janitors in 100 Election Districts at the election in 1879, for which appropriation for that year being insufficient on account of the new apportionment	21,800
Total	$754,720

Reductions have been made in the appropriation for interest on the City debt, $350,854; State taxes, $179,739, and other items.

THE CENTAL SYSTEM.

ANOTHER DETERMINED EFFORT OF THE GRAIN TRADE TO GET RID OF IT.

At the first grain call on the Produce Exchange yesterday, Mr. J. H. Herrick, Chairman of the Grain Committee, called the trade to order and stated the object of the meeting, which was to appoint a committee to confer with the Board of Managers with a view to securing relief from the operations of the central system. Mr. David Bingham made a motion that the members of the committee be gentlemen who had not previously served as being less likely to provoke hostility from the board. This was opposed by Messrs. Hasletine and Knesland. The former offered as an amendment that the committee be composed of old committeemen. The latter argued that any other course would be an acknowledgment that the former determined action of these gentlemen was not approved by the trade, which was not true. After considerable discussion, the extremists prevailed, and the following resolution was adopted:

Whereas, The corresponding Boards of Trade who assisted in the formation of the Board of Managers failed to co-operate in the adoption of the central system, have thus far failed to do so, and many of them have refused to indorse our action in regard thereto, therefore,

Resolved, That Messrs. C. R. Hickox, Franklin Edson, David Bingham, H. T. Kneeland, and T. J. Husted be appointed a committee to confer with the Board of Managers for the purpose of securing relief from the present embarrassing position in which trading is placed.

Another resolution was offered postponing all calls until some definite action should be taken by the board on the subject. This gave rise to a heated discussion. Mr. Herrick called Col. Reed to the chair, and made a speech reciting the difficulties under which the Board of Managers were laboring by reason of their obligation to be guided by the constitution and by-laws of the Exchange. Mr. Martin, of David Dows & Co., replied, pointing out the fact that other trades were still permitted to "call" pork by the barrel, oil by the gallon, &c. He charged that the action of the Board of Managers was being made to coerce the grain trade into accepting what was distasteful and injurious to them. He was followed by others denouncing the action of the Board of Managers, and asserting the unsatisfactory purpose of the trade to refuse to submit to the operation of the central system, which, by reason of the action of the board, yesterday, Mr. Herrick attempted to have action delayed for a week, and he finally prevailed so far as to have the resolution laid upon the table until Monday next, in order to give the board an opportunity to grant the concessions asked for.

ARRESTED FOR FORGERY.

A FRENCHMAN ACCUSED OF SWINDLING HIS FORMER BENEFACTOR.

In the Jefferson Market Police Court, yesterday, Pierre Eymard Jay, a Frenchman, was held for examination on a charge of forgery, preferred by Dr. Abraham Stout, of Bethlehem, Penn. Jay, four or five years ago, went to Bethlehem to work a patent process for smelting iron. He interested several persons, among them Dr. Stout, and they advanced money for experiments, which resulted in failure. Dr. Stout is County Physician, and, taking pity on Jay, who was penniless, he made a comfortable home for him in the Poor-house, and supplied him with money to make experiments on a patent counterbalance fly-wheel. For these advances Jay gave him an interest in the smelting process. The fly-wheel invention proved so much of a success that Dr. Stout gave Jay $260 for a third interest in it, and the patent was obtained June 26, 1878. Jay came to New-York, and Dr. Stout lost sight of him for some time. Jay pushed his patent and interested one Howe, who paid him $9,000 for one-third interest. Early last month, Howe & Jay decided to apply for a reissue of the patent through W. H. Weightman, of No. 7 Warren-street. Jay said that Dr. Stout held one-third of the invention and agreed to get a transfer of his interest. Jay left New-York, and after three days elapsed returned with what purported to be a legal transfer of Dr. Stout's rights, the consideration being $1. The signature of Dr. Stout and two witnesses were, however, forged. Meantime, Jay had written to Dr. Stout, offering him $100 for his share, or to sell his (Jay's) two shares for $200. Dr. Stout suspected fraud, and coming to New-York, detected the forgery. Jay, who lived at No. 54 University-place, was arrested.

PENNSYLVANIA BURGLARS ARRESTED.

Yesterday, Central Office Detectives Cumming and Van Gechisen arraigned, before Justice Bixby, in the Jefferson Market Police Court, Frederick Bleruth and Augustus Lohr, alias Younger Naumann, who were arrested on Tuesday evening, at Greenwich-street and the Battery, on a series of charges preferred by Detectives John Dunhard, of Reading, Penn. The prisoners belonged to a thieving association of tramps known as the Hemlocks, and recently members of the gang had committed extraordinary depredations in Lancaster and Berks Counties, Penn. It was resolved to rock them out, and the Reading Police planned matters so well that three of the gang are in custody in Philadelphia and two in Reading. Among other robberies was that of Mrs. Ladd, at Reading, where $1,000 worth of silverware and jewels were stolen. The Reading detectives had warrants charging other robberies to the prisoners. Justice Bixby surrendered the prisoners to Detective Dunhard, as they were willing to go with him. They are not educated tramps, and the Police believe that recently they have had an experienced burglar to guide them, as formerly they were petty thieves. It is understood that the chief of the gang wanted Joseph Buchman, is a prisoner on Blackwell's Island, he having been sent there recently for larceny. It is reported that other members of the gang are in New-York and will be arrested.

BIOGRAPHY OF A HANGMAN

WILLIAM CALCRAFT'S CAREER.

HOW HE ADOPTED HIS DISMAL CALLING—HIS PECULIAR WAYS AND HABITS—GALLOWS LITERATURE.

[From the London Telegraph, Dec. 17.

Something more than a merely morbid curiosity may prompt those who have heard of the death of William Calcraft to ask what manner of man was he who could bring himself to adopt the revolting, though necessary, business of public executioner; what he was before he became the official hangman, and how he got to take up that grim and ghastly calling. Calcraft was naturally of a taciturn disposition, particularly with respect to matters touching his professional, and his biographer—should he be honored with a more extended biography—will have to wade through newspaper accounts of an indefinite number of public executions, many pamphlets published in Leather-lane and Seven Dials, and sundry copies of halting verses printed in blurred type with soft ink upon thin paper, in order to construct even an imperfect picture of this hero. Several so-called biographies of Calcraft were published during his lifetime, but all are notable for a narrow stream of fact meandering through a broad meadow of commentary, and not one may be considered worthy of the subject or to be relied on for a strict accuracy of statement. The earliest work of the sort, the original of subsequent editions with emendations, was printed by J. Hancock, of Leather-lane, and, though undated, was probably issued in the year 1846 as indicated by collateral evidence. It is in the form of a small octavo pamphlet, entitled "The Groans of the Gallows; or, the Past and Present Life of William Calcraft, the Living Hangman of Newgate." The title-page is illustrated with an imperfectly-executed wood engraving of the head and bust of a middle-aged man of a studious and benevolent expression of countenance, evidently intended for a portrait of Mr. Calcraft, although it might be made to do duty equally well for a likeness of the late Duke of Wellington, or of the Rev. Dr. Milman, some time Dean of St. Paul's, or of many another public man. The work opens with a supposititious conversation in which the sentiments of the hero, too palpably evolved from the inner consciousness of the author to be worthy of more than a momentary reference; and we pass, therefore, to the "facts," such as they are, of this singular man's career.

Mr. Calcraft, like so many other distinguished individuals, was born of humble, but industrious parents, in the country. He is reported to have first seen the light at a small and pleasantly rural village in Essex, where his earliest years were passed in childish sport and as an attentive pupil of the local Sunday-school. A youthful love of adventure and impatience of restraint drove him to the Metropolis at the age of 10 years, where, it is broadly hinted, he graduated in the gutter and took his degree in petty crime. His biographer, however, repudiates with eloquent scorn the suggestion made, in other and worse-informed quarters, that, having, while still a young man, committed a felony, he received the pardon of the Crown in consideration of undertaking the duties of the ghastly office he was afterward to fill. It would seem that young Calcraft had tired of a life of lawlessness, and that he set himself steadily to learn the trade of a shoe-maker, by the practice of which, at one time, he supported himself, and, subsequently, according to his biographer, he was employed as night-watchman in the service of a well-known firm of brewers. Calcraft, however, seems to have found the tedium of watching more intolerable than the irregular life of the streets and the popular trade of shoe-making. The bent of his genius was clearly in another direction, and accident at length threw him into the company of one Mr. Thomas Cheshire, familiarly called "Old Tom," whereby the whole current of his life was turned into a new channel. At the period referred to Mr. Cheshire filled the office of public executioner, and in this Calcraft first assisted, and at his decease succeeded him, being appointed executioner in succession to the late Mr. Mawby, of the Office of Works in London, in the year 1828. The emoluments of his office do not seem to have been very tempting. They have been variously stated at 1 guinea and 25s. per week, paid by the authorities of the City of London and County of Middlesex. He is also said to have received but one fee for his services, namely, that in connection with Horsemonger-lane Jail, since dismantled; although, judging from a document preserved in the library of the British Museum, he would likewise appear to have been paid by results. The document is dated "Treasury Chambers, 30th of August, 1847. Received of the Sheriffs of London and Middlesex, by payment of Mr. Under-Sheriff Shearman, ten shillings, my fee." And then follows, in an elegant and free handwriting, the valuable autograph signature of "William Calcraft." The first edition of "Groans from the Gallows" was probably exhausted, and it was followed by a second, ornamented with a graphic representation of a smiling murderer, in top-boots, pitching a figure which may be intended to represent either a lady or gentleman in bed, while two black-browed marauders are pitching a trunk in a manner which would leave these shocking scenes supposed to take place. The second edition in other respects, contains but little new matter, except a copy of the ancient mode of swearing in the public executioner at Guildhall, and, if fresh facts are required, the student must turn to the third edition, which also includes biographical references to Mr. Mawby, the predecessor of Calcraft, first at York, and to his illustrious friend and fellow-artist, M. Jacquet, of Paris. Among other anecdotes related of Calcraft, is one which shows him in the character of a boon companion by no means of the sequacious order, at a tavern in Hoxton, where he lived and died. Naturally of an amiable disposition, Calcraft was particularly attached to rabbits, and he loved to pass his leisure and take a friendly glass in company with other fanciers of these large-eared, and-eyed pets. One day, however, a brother naturalist made a remark in the course of a discussion touching Calcraft's professional avocations, always a subject to be ignored in his presence, whereupon he rose from his seat displeased, but not disposed to resent the insult, he quietly left the room peacefully round, and quitted the apartment at once and forever. Oral tradition relates that the deceased hangman obtained sums varying from 5s. to £1 an inch for pieces of cord which he had used in the way of business; the fact is generally credited with having come into possession of the last clothing worn by his clients, except in special cases where the garments were, by direction of the court officers, handed over to surviving relatives. These articles of apparel Mr. Calcraft used to sell to the proprietors of cheap waxwork exhibitions, and he would sometimes grimly remark that he had seen a little change of the fashion taking place in consequence of Mrs. Manning having expired dressed in black satin. Contemporary history is comparatively silent on the subject of the hangman's domestic relations. Thus we do not learn whether he was married or a bachelor, though from a copy of verses circulated apparently more in sorrow than in anger, under the title of "Calcraft's Lament, or the Hangman is a Hobble," his mother appears to have become chargeable to the parish of Witham, and, in consequence, he was ordered by the local magistrates to contribute 3s. a week toward the old lady's support, from which it would seem that, though a skillful executioner and kind-hearted to rabbits, he was not remarkable for filial affection.

There would appear to be individuals as deeply interested in all that concerns the literature of "the Dials," as those devoted to "states" of Rembrandt etchings, "Old Blue," and Chippendale furniture. "Groans from the Gallows," though favorably received by certain students of that sort of publication, was open to deep disapprobation in the eyes of another, an anonymous scribe was inspired to pen an opposition pamphlet which he called "The Hangman's Letter to the Queen, vindicating his Life, Character, and Profession, with his proposed new Machine, to be called 'Calcraft's Maiden.' This brochure, evidently a labor of love with its author, may be described as a plea for the profession of public executioner. "Calcraft's Maiden," as figured in "The Hangman's Letter to the Queen," closely resembles the ancient "Maiden" preserved in Edinburgh, and used at the execution of the Marquis of Argyle and other middle-of the seventeenth century. Whether Calcraft really invented the instrument pictured in the pamphlet, or whether the cut formed part of the stock of the printer, and was inserted by way of embellishment, will probably continue as great a mystery as the authorship of the "Letters of Junius," or the identity of the Man in the Iron Mask. Calcraft does not seem to have made any attempt to patent an invention of the sort, or interfere with the introduction of the long drop by his successor. There is little more to be said of his end life without going into painful details. Full of years, if not of honors, he retired from the active exercise of his calling in 1874. More than one unnecessarily shocking scene on the scaffold suggested that a change in the office of hangman was desirable. The old gentleman, however, would never allow that the cunning of his handicraft had forsaken him, and, crown carnulous with age, would boast that he was capable of doing his duty with the most accomplished and practiced person in his profession.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.

Sanitary Superintendent Day yesterday sent to the Board of Health the following table, showing the number of deaths from contagious diseases reported at the Sanitary Bureau during 1879:

Month.	Small-pox. Adults.	Small-pox. Children.	Diphtheria. Adults.	Diphtheria. Children.	Scarlet Fever. Adults.	Scarlet Fever. Children.	Measles. Adults.	Measles. Children.
January	0	27	986	10	15	209	0	0
February	0	21	765	6	17	217	0	0
March	0	16	614	6	50	170	0	0
April	0	21	774	8	132	149	0	0
May	0	28	604	19	168	184	0	0
June	0	19	414	13	197	101	0	0
July	0	24	252	11	128	98	0	0
August	4	58	151	18	111	79	0	0
September	4	74	142	8	95	88	0	0
October	0	92	156	7	170	132	0	0
November	0	94	158	8	256	164	1	0
December	0	38	201	4	274	205	0	0
Total	8	493	5,447	107	2,424	1,794	00	0

PASSED OVER THE MAYOR'S VETO.

At the meeting of the Board of Aldermen yesterday, the resolution granting authority to the Chambers-Street and Cross-town Railroad Company to build their proposed road, was called up, and passed over the Mayor's veto by the following vote:

Affirmative—Aldermen Burns, Carroll, Cavanagh, Finck, Foster, George Hall, Robert Hall, Hamilton, Hyatt Reeder, Kenny, Kiernan, Salmon, Sheils, Slevin, Stewart, Strack—17.

Negative—Aldermen Mott, Morris, Jacobus, Farley, Roberts—6.

A communication was received from Mayor Cooper nominating Mr. Allan Campbell to succeed himself as Commissioner of Public Works for a term of four years, from Dec. 29, 1879. It was laid on the table.

The Board adopted a resolution, calling the attention of the Police Commissioners to an ordinance of the Common Council passed in 1873, in relation to the use of snow-plows by railroad companies, and the removal and leveling of snow in the streets. The resolution calls for the enforcement of the ordinance. John Grimes and John H. McCarthy were elected City Marshals.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

THE TAY BRIDGE DISASTER.

To the Editor of the New-York Times:

I hope you will allow me space to make a few remarks on the Tay Bridge disaster, particularly as I had more than one opportunity of seeing the structure while in the course of erection and since. I pass over many circumstances which still remain in obscurity as to the proximate causes of the accident, and wish to draw attention to the defective engineering of the building. As is well known, the girders both on the Fife and Forfarshire ends of the bridge were under the road, while the 13 centre girders were overhead. These large pieces of iron work, weighing 250 tons each, were laid on the level of the pier-heads, but they were entirely devoid of anything more than a lateral connection with the piers, and derived no strength from them whatever where no overset was concerned. So far as can be judged, the girders were only designed to prevent lateral breakage—that is, to keep the trains from falling down between the supports or pillars. Now, had the structure been entirely a homogeneous one, then the girders and the piers must have stood or fallen together, whereas, as has happened, the girders have been toppled over while the pillars remain quite unharmed, and as erect as they were when the bridge was opened for traffic.

What then was the defect? Simply this, that the overhead girders should have been firmly secured to the piers, so that any pressure brought to bear upon them should have received the strength which the piers could have afforded to yield. In other words the centre girders should have been securely fastened not to the level way, but to the piers in the way of a gay, or a bracing at each corner. Any fixing of the girders in the arch style could not have formed any obstacle in the passage of ships under the railtrack, as the point of the mast would come in contact with the centre of the open space, and certainly not to the side corners. A glance at the structure itself, or at any of the sketches of it which have appeared, will be enough to show that the bridge would have been greatly strengthened had the centre arches, or rather openings, presented the appearance of a Gothic window. In order to counteract the leverage of the high girders, the wind would have been a match for any train of cars. The unfortunate train happened to be on the remainder of way, 180 miles, with the mercury 20° below zero, and but little covering, arriving at their destination the tenth day, some badly frozen.

A HORSE FRIGHTENED TO DEATH.

From the Rochester Democrat, Dec. 30.

Yesterday afternoon Warren Caswell, a farmer from East Henrietta, came to the city with a load of wheat, and drove down below the railroad to deliver it. When he was returning, as he neared the Central track, an engine standing close by the crossing suddenly let off steam from the escape-valve. One of Mr. Caswell's horses was very badly frightened. It did not attempt to run, but trembled in a remarkable manner, and it was with difficulty he could be forced on up the street. Mr. Caswell stopped before Erickson, Jennings & Mumford's Bank, and left hold of the bridle long enough for them to transact his business. He had scarcely entered the bank when the horse dropped lifeless to the pavement.

STRAWBERRIES ON CHRISTMAS.

From the Columbus (Ga.) Enquirer, Dec. 27.

We were shown on Christmas Day, by Mr. Robert Ware, a box of fully ripe and matured strawberries, which he gathered on his place, about a mile from the city. They were grown in the open air, and he represents that the vines were full of blooms and young strawberries; and if the cold does not come and kill them large quantities can be gathered in a few days. They resolved only the ordinary cultivation and attention, and are of the Wilson variety.

DECISIONS IN THE COURTS.

SUPREME COURT—CHAMBERS.

By Judge Van Ness.

In the Matter of Irving.—I do not think it best to disturb the present control of the children, and the writ of habeas corpus is dismissed.

Conklin vs. Conklin.—Motion granted, and an allowance of $250 made to defendant.

In the Matter of ReCrim.—Referee's report confirmed.

Prescott vs. Bracket.—Judgment of divorce in favor of the plaintiff granted.

Schoen vs. Mulligan.—Order discharging Receiver granted.

Merrill et al. vs. Merrill.—References in partition to R. R. Kissam, Esq., to examine and report.

Low vs. Lockey.—Judgment for plaintiff.

Sweeney vs. Sweeney.—Report of Referee confirmed, and judgment of divorce in favor of plaintiff.

Manning vs. Reed.—Judgment for the plaintiff entered.

In the Matter of Carter.—Petition granted.

Agger vs. Conway.—Under the authority of Ellsworth vs. Goodwin, 3 How. Pr. R., 1, the extra allowance made and which has become part of the judgment, is to be treated as a part of the costs to be paid by the defendant under the order of the General Term granting a new trial, and the Clerk properly included this allowance in his adjustment. The motion for retaxation is denied, with costs.

Orders Granted.—Hendricks vs. Cogswell; Stokes vs. Bunett.

By Judge Westbrook.

St. John vs. Sussman.—Motion to continue injunction denied, with costs to abide the event of action. Memorandum of reasons written.

By Judge Donohue.

Granted.—Mullin vs. Miller; in the matter of Miller.

Grant vs. Hunt.—It seems to me that on the papers the plaintiff is entitled to the relief asked. The case turns on the question as to whether the real debtor, in paying the debt, had the right to take an assignment of matters given by another, but as defendant claims that there was no payment and proposes to be able to show that there was no alleged collusion, there may be a response to take proof on those points.

By Judge Lawrence.

Black vs. Rodgers et al.—Title should be a Special Term motion.

Hawkesworth vs. Schuyler.—The same reasons which lead to the denial of the motion for leave to discontinue this action should prevent the granting of the motion for leave to file a supplemental complaint. Moreover, this motion may well be denied on the ground of laches. I do not feel the disposition of the motion, however, on these grounds. I understand that the court has a discretion in these cases and have determined that the case was not one in which an order for discontinuance should be granted. The court cannot on substantially the same facts allow the filing of a supplemental answer.

Ordered Granted.—Mott vs. Mott; Abbott vs. Abbott, 224; Rank vs. The Mayor, &c., 72 N. Y. (4d.) Motion denied, with $10 costs, to abide the event.

SUPREME COURT—SPECIAL TERM.

By Judge Lawrence.

The Mechanics' and Traders' National Bank vs. The Mayor, &c.—Opinion.

SUPERIOR COURT—SPECIAL TERM.

By Judge Sedgwick.

Sherman et al. vs. Ross et al.—Judgment for defendants, with costs. See opinion.

By Judge Sloan.

Hathaway vs. Russell et al.—Let all proceedings be stayed to allow the defendant time to prepare and print the papers for an appeal upon the defendant's stipulation to argue the case at the General Term of this court proceeding next to the General Term of January, 1880, defendants to pay $10 costs of this motion.

Ehrich vs. Miller.—Order for inspection of the books &c., granted.

Fitzpatrick vs. Swayne et al.—Referee's report confirmed, and judgment of foreclosure and sale ordered.

Brown et al. vs. McDonald.—Order denying motion to vacate, &c., stands. See opinion.

Ehrich vs. Hopkins.—Order denying motion to vacate, &c.

Keogh vs. Lewisohn et al.—Order of substitution.

Vanderpoel vs. Sweeny.—Order vacating subpoena.

Hoffman vs. Gilmore et al.—Undertaking approved.

Thomson et al. vs. Thomson.—References ordered.

Gale vs. Van Pelt.—Order signed.

Gordon et al. vs. Hunter vs. Hunter.—Order to Show Cause, &c., why the defendant should not be punished for contempt, &c., for not paying the plaintiff $50 alimony, &c., and $100 counsel fee, &c., &c., &c.,

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COUNTRY HOUSES TO LET—Seventh Page—2d col.
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The New-York Times.

NEW-YORK, THURSDAY, JAN. 1, 1880.

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

WALLACK'S THEATRE—Six Scenes to Conquer.
UNION-SQUARE THEATRE—French Flats.
DALY'S THEATRE—An Arabian Night. Matinée.
PARK THEATRE—Pinafore.
FIFTH-AVENUE—The Frames of Fortune. Matinée.
HAVERLY'S THEATRE—The Gallery Slave.
NIBLO'S GARDEN—Scenes of Street. Matinée.
THEATRE COMIQUE—Milligan Guards' Christmas.
SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS—Variety. Matinée.
STANDARD THEATRE—Parlour Toto. Matinée.
BROOKLYN THEATRE—Widow Bedott. Matinée.
THE AQUARIUM—Uncle Tom's Cabin. Matinée.
NEW-YORK CIRCUS—Humpty Dumpty. Matinée.

THE NEW-YORK TIMES.

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SPECIAL NOTICE.

Mrs. Frances Hodgson Burnett, author of "That Lass o' Lowrie's," "Haworth's," &c., will contribute an original story entitled "The Colonel's Daughter," and devoted to certain remarkable phases of Southern life and politics, to The Times *of Sunday next.*

The Signal Service Bureau reports indicates for to-day, in this region, falling, followed by rising, barometer, cooler north-west, backing to warmer, south-west, winds, clear or partly cloudy weather.

For the last five years the Government of New-York State has been, with more or less restraint from the Republican element in the Legislature, in the hands of the Democrats. To-day it passes under Republican control, with a completeness which had no parallel even in 1873, when Gov. Dix succeeded Hoffman. Both Senate and Assembly are overwhelmingly Republican, and the State Engineer's is the only office in the State Administration filled by a Democrat. The responsibility which such a state of things entails is quite as pronounced in a partisan as in a public sense. New-York is the State on which the Presidential contest of this year will turn, and the Republican Party is on its trial in New-York, not only with reference to the vote of the State in November, but with reference to the administrative methods which the nation will be called on to approve. The Governor, the State officers, and the Legislative majority share between them a very serious responsibility, and it is to be hoped that all of them are prepared to act on the principle that he serves his party best who discharges his public trust with single-minded and unswerving fidelity.

Mr. O. D. Baker, counsel for the Maine Republican Advisory Committee, has summarized some of the points in the indictment of Gov. Garcelon and his Council in a manner which ought to command attention. These points are numerous, but the first three of them are enough to silence the clatter of men who discuss this question without looking into it. The first proposition is that the Constitution requires the Governor to issue certificates to members of the Legislature who "shall appear to be elected." Yet the entire vote of Portland was rejected because a few votes were classed as "scattering," although the number of votes so classed was so small that they could not change the result, however placed. In other words, the Republican candidates "appeared" to be elected on the face of the returns, and the duty of the Governor would have been fulfilled when he certified that fact. Another point is that although there were many and sufficient blanks for returns, of the usual pattern in the office of the Secretary of State, a new form was used. This form was purposely framed to mislead, being ruled in such a way as to give an examiner of them the impression that only a small number of official signatures were required. It was a trap, and the thieves are to-day profiting by its success. Again, the law says that no ballot with "a distinguishing mark" upon it shall be received, but, if it is received, it shall be counted. Republican ballots open to this objection were received and counted. The Garcelon gang reject the entire poll. This is clearly a violation of law. If Garcelon desires any proofs of his having violated Constitution, law, and equity, he has them in these three counts against him.

Our Washington dispatches contain an interesting statement of the present position of our relations with Japan, which, it seems, have given rise to some annoyance on the part of American residents in that country. It is sufficient to say that the treaty of 1878, which conceded to Japan the commercial independence to which she is amply entitled, was not only a just and national measure, but was accompanied by concessions on the part of Japan which are quite valuable to the United States. Moreover, the equality of our country with those of Europe is secured by a provision that the treaty should go into effect only when similar treaties are consented to by the parties to that of 1866. It now remains for our Government, whose course has usually been marked by wisdom and fairness in its dealings with Japan, to make some equitable disposition of the Japanese indemnity fund, which lies in the Treasury, and to which, by common acknowledgment, this country has no real right.

Mr. Charles T. Howard, of the Louisiana Lottery Company, takes occasion to deny in our columns to-day that the corporation with which he is connected, was organized to swindle anybody. We cannot argue that point with Mr. Howard, inasmuch as his notions of what constitutes swindling probably differ so essentially from ours as to render any such discussion unprofitable. We admit that "the good people of Louisiana" who recently "ratified" his lottery scheme by a majority of 70,000 votes, are equally unable with Mr. Howard to see that it is an organized swindle. But as the same "good" constituency ratified, by the same vote, a project to swindle the creditors of the State, we can hardly admit that their moral sense would pass before a jury of honest men as more trustworthy than that of Mr. Howard. As to his implied reflection on the motives of our Washington correspondent in singling out his company for reprobation, we regard the fact that our correspondent has incurred the enmity of Mr. Howard and his associates as being an excellent testimony to his zeal and fidelity.

Mr. John Kelly gave another example of his regard for public sentiment when he insisted on the selection as Recorder of Mr. Frederick Smyth, whom the people have already rejected for more important positions by decisive majorities. Mr. Kelly also succeeded in demonstrating that Democratic Aldermen have a price, which can be ascertained by anybody willing to pay it, when he secured the confirmation of his favorite. From a Recorder who owes his position to such influences it would be folly to expect much, even were he made of less ductile materials than Mr. Smyth. As the people will have a chance next November to designate their choice for the position of Recorder, it may, not improbably, happen that Mr. Smyth and his patron have made a very poor bargain. In any case, we should, perhaps, be thankful that Mr. Kelly did not designate Mr. Gunning S. Bedford as his choice for Recorder. Whatever Mr. Smyth may be, he will bring to the position at least some pretense to ability and character. With a certain obvious fitness, the only other business of importance transacted by the Aldermen yesterday was the passage of the Chambers-street railroad job over the Mayor's veto.

HOLIDAY KEEPING.

The new year has a peculiarity which is remarkable, and which will cause it to be welcomed and remembered by lovers of relaxation and of pleasure, and by all those who seize eagerly upon every opportunity to flee the town, and to seek in the country either restoration from its air or the renewal of family and friendly associations. This peculiarity is that all its special holidays happen to fall either on Saturday or on Sunday. Such a concurrence has not happened for a long while, and many years must pass before it happens again. In 1875 the Fourth of July fell on Sunday, and Christmas Day, and, of course, the following New-Year's Day, on Saturday; but Washington's Birthday did not concur in this, nor has it fallen on Saturday or Sunday since 1873 until this year, and both of these years the Fourth of July and Christmas Day fell on Thursdays or Fridays.

The coming of two holidays together—a special holiday and a Sunday—must always have been welcome to the workers of the world, and particularly to that very large majority of them who work not for their own profit, but for that of others, or wages. The partners in a business might be willing to work on holidays, and some of them do so; but those in their employment, from porters up to book-keepers and correspondence clerks, as they gain nothing by extra labor, look eagerly for the holidays, which brightly break their monotony of toil. Railways have, in one respect, greatly benefited this large class of people. In the old stage-coach days they must have been perforce confined to town upon holidays, or their excursions must have been bounded by very narrow limits. But now, and particularly of late years, since the introduction of the custom of frequent trains and the multiplication of short roads in remote rural districts, which act as feeders to the great routes, the question of going two or three hundred miles to spend a holiday is one merely of expense, not of time. And when a special holiday comes on Saturday or on Sunday, so that it is kept on Monday, a man may leave town on Friday or Saturday evening and go to almost any place within three hundred miles, spend two whole days with kinsfolk that he rarely sees, except on such occasions, and be back in time for business on the following Monday or Tuesday morning. The throng upon the outgoing trains upon the eve of such double holidays, and upon the incoming trains on the morning after them, tells how largely this facility is availed of by the inhabitants of New-York. True, many of these passengers are mere seekers of pleasure—pleasure of a certain sort—and go to suburban hotels, where they pass their holiday either in a coarse semblance of festivity, or in an uncertain kind of idleness. But there remains a large proportion who take these occasions to reunite themselves with their families or their family friends. Of the men who are actively engaged in business in New-York, a very large number are not natives of the City. Indeed, it might perhaps safely be said that a comparatively small proportion of them are so, and the same is measurably true of other large cities in this country and in England. Now, the spending of their holidays by a large proportion of these men with their families at the old home, not only makes a difference in the way of keeping holidays, but has an appreciable moral and social effect upon the community at large. Only in the last generation, if a lad left a country home to go to some great city to seek fortune or, at least, employment, he was from that time lost to his family, cut off from all intercourse with them, except by letters, and in most cases was rarely seen again until years had passed, and he revisited the home of his youth so altered in person as to be hardly recognizable, and so alienated by long absence and by change in habits of life and in manners that, excepting the mere tie of blood, he returned a stranger. Now, it is his own fault or that of his family if the tie between them is broken or weakened; the day or two which, if he will, he may pass with them at intervals of a few months, or even less, is quite enough to keep up kindly intercourse and to preserve some community of thought and feeling. The influence of this habit, which is not more than a generation old, has already made itself felt in the drawing closer of the bonds by which separated families and distant communities are connected.

When, however, we turn from this way of holiday keeping to consider others in vogue with us and with other English-speaking peoples, it must be confessed that the sight which meets our eyes is not inspiriting or much to be admired. Most readers of English literature know of the old French description of English folk on a holiday, that "they took their pleasure sadly, after their manner;" and what was true of them four hundred years ago is true now. But the American intensifies the gravity of his English forefather in taking his pleasure; and although he may be somewhat more self-possessed and at his ease than the modern Englishman, he presents to the observer the depressing results of a peculiar and a self-imposed restraint. The truth is that the great majority of respectable and tolerably-educated Americans born and bred are too constantly conscious of their respectability and their education, too constantly desirous to appear as refined and as elegant as anybody else, to give themselves up to hearty enjoyment of simple pleasure, which always involves a certain degree of self-unconsciousness, and, indeed, partly consists of it. Hilarity, gayety of heart, abandonment to the pleasurable excitement of the moment, are rare among us. Sometimes, indeed, and in some places, nature roughly asserts herself, and there is an outbreak like that in the Brokers' Board on the eve of a great holiday. But not only is such horse-play uncommon, as it well may be, among us; it is a poor, coarse substitute for real hilarity, for real gayety of heart. Such rude sport can last but a little while; the vivacity and capacity of pleasure which comes from fine animal spirits and an abandonment of restraint produce an elasticity of soul which keeps its happy possessors in a joyful mood for days together. Of this we seem to have little. We certainly show very little of it on our holidays. Christmas is a day of churchgoing, feeding, and present-getting, with too often a sharp calculation as to the value of the presents. New Year's Day, in New-York at least, is one of dull and formal social toil, when it is not one of more or less inebriety. Other peoples keep New Year's Day, and have done so for centuries. Old English literature is full of allusions to it and to the gift-giving of the day. The French give gifts and pay visits to their intimate friends. Only in America is the day made one of hurrying from door to door to make calls upon every slight acquaintance—calls which bring no real pleasure either to the caller or to the called upon. And yet, although this is generally admitted, there seems to be no hope of its abatement or amelioration. In our holiday-keeping, as in other social affairs, we seem to be set into grooves, and to run in them with a gloomy content. We have some reasons for national self-complacence, and among them we are ready—perhaps too ready—to reckon the general intelligence and the material comfort of our people; but it is at least a question whether our real capacity for happiness would not be greater if we had the faculty of giving ourselves up more heartily to the enjoyment of social hilarity—enough of it, at least, to make our holidays less like solemnities.

ONE OF THE MYSTERIES.

Opponents of the cancellation of public indebtedness, as a consequence of the redemption of promises to pay, have their counterpart in the railroad world. Railroad managers do not include the extinction of bonded debt in their estimate of corporate obligations. When one issue of bonds approaches maturity another appears to take its place. Of the financial announcements relating to railroad debts a large percentage results from this practice. Lucky is the company, apparently, whose debt is not gradually increased. The company whose debt is literally extinguished when it becomes due—extinguished, we mean, by the proceeds of accumulations, carefully husbanded for the purpose—is so rare among railroads that we know not where to look for an example. Uniform practice is in the opposite direction. And it is as uniformly regarded as a mere matter of course. A company announces that "the new loan is intended to provide for an equal amount of bonds about to become due," and the ability thus to raise the means of discharging an old debt is accepted as evidence of good credit.

The practice is not one of which railroad companies have reason to be proud, and certainly it is not one in which investors should acquiesce without more careful investigation than the terms of the advertisements usually imply. A great increase of bonded indebtedness has been a characteristic of railroad management within the last few years. The circumstance has an obvious bearing on the financial requirements of the roads, considered with reference to the cost of traffic, and on the future of railroad properties. A glance at the pages of the monthly supplement of the *Financial Chronicle* shows how vast is the load of debt which in the great majority of companies stands between the stockholders and their property; and the reflections suggested acquire additional weight from a comparison of the exhibit with any exhibit based upon the data supplied, say, ten years ago.

Stock-watering, startling as are its proportions and objectionable as is the policy on which it ordinarily rests, passes unchallenged; though its relation to one aspect of the problem to be solved by national or local legislation, or by both, hardly needs to be pointed out. The growth of bonded debts is open to still graver criticism. As regards stock, the determination of the fairness of rates to be charged may be influenced by a knowledge of the cost of construction and maintenance. These items are more likely to commend themselves to Commissioners independent of the companies, as a measure of the earnings to be provided for, than are the speculative stock-capitals whose history will not bear scrutiny. But the bonded debts are in nearly all cases fixed burdens, out of all proper proportion to the *bona fide* stock-capitals, and representing processes on which "Poor's Manual" sheds no light. In exceptional cases, the legitimacy of the debt and the reasonableness of its amount, are plain enough. The rule, however, is of a different character. There are mortgage bonds, consolidated bonds, general bonds, income bonds, and we know not how many other kinds of bonds; and now and then they are so mixed that it is difficult to define the exact degrees of security or to understand by what inducements the money could have been obtained. The general conclusion must be that the bonded indebtedness has been increased in a dangerous degree; the danger pertaining quite as much to certain classes of bondholders as to the stockholders.

The significance of the lesson to be learned is not lessened by the public knowledge of the manner in which corporate affairs are commonly administered. This enormous amount of bonded indebtedness is unrepresented in the management. Beyond the scanty information which managers deign to supply, its holders have no means of ascertaining the real state of affairs. They are powerless in relation to measures which directly affect the security they are supposed to possess. They have no guarantee that the money they supplied has been faithfully applied to the published purposes: part of it may have been employed to sustain the ballooning policy which is in vogue among managers or to meet current expenditures. If only the interest on the bonds be regularly paid, their rights are dormant; and experience has shown that when default occurs their rights are often little more than imaginary. The whole system of railroad indebtedness as it exists in this country is [illegible] malous and inequitable,—so beset with pitfalls for investors, and so calculated to deter all but speculators from handling the stocks,—that from every point of view it is unsatisfactory. Because it is so, we wonder the more at the matter-of-fact way in which the practice of paying one debt by the creation of another goes on continually.

It is a bad practice for both bondholders and stockholders. The former are in the dark in regard to the actual condition of their security, and the latter have the prospective value of their property affected injuriously by every confession of inability to provide in the only proper way for maturing indebtedness. Management which cannot, or will not, gradually make provision for at least part of the bonded debt is defective at some vital point, and sooner or later the road will suffer. For while one class of railroad interests may be expected to grow stronger and more prosperous, there is another, and that a larger class, whose future is clouded and doubtful. By and by, perhaps, the National Government will unveil some of the mysteries which under the present system are adroitly concealed; and we may then understand why railroad companies substitute one issue of bonds for another, instead of clearing away indebtedness when it becomes due.

THE LAW AND THE FACTS.

The Governor of Maine professes to have been guided by inspiration from the Supreme Court. Fully to realize the effrontery and lawlessness of the proceedings, one should visit any fair law library, ask the librarian to show the Maine Reports, and compare the opinions of the Justices with the Council's report of its doings. The opinions display the Governors of past years repeatedly asking if they might do such things as in December were done, and the Judges steadily saying, "No; you have no business with those matters." Away back in 1846, the Justices explained that the returns and "the returns alone" are to be examined by the Governor and Council; and this principle is repeated in various forms down to the present time. It recurs in the latest opinion found—1877. Yet a large majority of the obnoxious December rulings were reached by considering matters outside the returns. And they took almost anything; sworn witnesses were not required; affidavits, protests, unsworn statements, and evidently even general knowledge and belief, were received to set aside a return.

Compare a few of these rulings with past opinions of the court. They reject the return from Cherryfield because affidavits were presented that one of the Selectmen was a foreigner, owing to which there was not a full, legal board. In 1871, Gov. Perham reported that the Clerk to the Selectmen had made deposition that he was a foreigner, and asked if that might be considered. The court said, no; the Governor and Council could only act on the returns. Garcelon & Co. rejected returns from half a dozen towns because affidavits were presented that they were not completed and sealed up in open town meeting. In a case in 1871, the story was that the Ward Clerk carried the returns about in his pocket, unsealed, for half a day, expecting to meet the City Clerk, and give them to him; and, failing, he gave them unsealed to "another gentleman," who at length delivered them. The Governor asked if the returns might not be excluded. Court said no; illegalities or irregularities, though capable of proof, could not be considered, unless they appeared in the returns. Garcelon & Co. refused to add votes designating the Christian name of the candidate by his initials, to the votes cast for him by his full name. What the court has said on this point was that if John Smith and James Smith were candidates for the same office, no one could tell by the returns which one was entitled to a vote for J. Smith, and that votes for William Smith could not be added to votes for William H. Smith; a very different doctrine. Garcelon & Co. refused to count votes for Burnham and Burnham as cast for the same man. Yet the Supreme Court expressly said in 1875, that when the name, though misspelled, is recognizable by the sound, the vote should be counted for the candidate for whom it was obviously intended. Garcelon & Co. received an unsworn certificate and specimen ballot annexed to it, as showing that ballots wrong in form were cast in Skowhegan. The Supreme Court has said that the Governor and Council can only know what the returns indicate; they are limited to the evidence derivable from the returns, and the Selectmen are not certifying officers to matters outside the list of votes. In short, comparing what was done by Garcelon & Co. with the opinions by which they profess to have been guided, there is a great deal more conflict than accord. It becomes obvious that if the Morrill questions were submitted to the Justices, and they should adhere to past opinions and apply them to the present case, a general reversal of the action in December would result.

The gist of what the Justices have said all along has been that the Governor and Council are a mere canvassing board, and not at all clothed with powers of judges of a contested election. The distinction is worth understanding, aside from the present excitement. All systems of election law provide for a preliminary reckoning up of the votes, for determining apparent majorities, and making lists of the persons who, postponing all controverted questions, appear to be elected. The Maine plan is to have this, and only this, done by the Governor and Council. The Selectmen in the towns and ward officers in cities are to receive the votes, count them, make a record, make a copy of this record, and send the copy to Augusta. This copy is called the return. The Governor and Council are to examine these returns; disregarding outside matters, except some power—how much is disputed—to correct the returns by the original record; and to make out lists of the Senators and Representatives, apparently elected, and notify them to go to Augusta and open the Legislature. The Senate and House are the tribunals to receive affidavits and protests and certificates, and to determine all contests and claims of rival candidates. The mode of doing this is well understood. The men who are indisputably elected commence the business of the session, and, by committees, take testimony of witnesses and ascertain disputed facts. The House or Senate then votes between the contesting candidates. These questions do not belong to the canvassing board at all; and the opinions of the Justices ring to this note, all through.

AVEZZANA.

The death of Gen. Avezzana will be learned with regret by the many friends whom he made in this City during his long residence here as an Italian exile, and by all who admire the heroic band of early Italian patriots, of whom he was one of the few survivors.

Gen. Avezzana first came conspicuously before the public during the brief existence of the Roman Republic of 1849. As Minister of War, he really conducted the defense of the city, with which Garibaldi, who acted in a subordinate position to Avezzana, is generally exclusively credited. After the entry of the French, Avezzana found his way to Genoa, where he headed that curious revolution of the city against the Sardinian King. The Genoese revolted through an excess of patriotism, and in the hope of compelling the defeated Sardinian monarchy to resume the hopeless struggle against the Austrians. While La Marmora was besieging the city, an English frigate took up a position where she rendered certain of the Genoese guns useless. Avezzana sent word to the English Captain that if he did not move his ship out of the way in half an hour he would sink her. Threats of this kind do not usually have much effect upon a British naval officer, but the Captain of the frigate wisely reflected that Avezzana would certainly keep his word, and that, as the unrecognized leader of an insurrection, the British Government could not obtain very much satisfaction from him for the loss of the frigate. Whereupon, the Englishman prudently took his ship out of the range of the Genoese guns, and the grim revolutionist had the satisfaction of trampling on the indomitable British Navy.

Genoa, in due course of time, surrendered, and Avezzana came to New-York, where, with Garibaldi, Gaiani, and other patriots, he led an industrious and quiet life. With the first dawn of the resurrection of Italy he returned to his native land, and soon after Garibaldi landed in Sicily he joined him there, where his military knowledge and his skill as an organizer and the universal respect felt for his character made him a most valuable recruit. Since the consolidation of the Kingdom he served, up to the time of his death, as a Deputy in Parliament, where, although he never disowned his Republican opinions, he always gave a loyal and intelligent support to the Government. He must have been fully 80 years old when a peaceful death ended a stormy and, in many respects, glorious, career.

Italy, during the period of the *Risorgimento*, as the Italians fitly called the period of their successful revolution, produced a brilliant company of patriotic leaders, most of whom the valorous Avezzana outlived. Of the old Republican revolutionists, Manin, the defender of Venice, and Mazzini, the prophet of Italian unity, have been dead for many years. Bixio, who fought at Rome with Garibaldi, landed with his old leader at Calatafimi, and fought as a General of Division at Cartizza, died in the China seas, where he had gone to found a colony and repeat the romantic success of Rajah Brooke. Sirtori, who led the revolt of Milan in 1848, fought under Manin in Venice, and was Garibaldi's Chief of Staff in Sicily, also died a General in the regular Army. Of the noted Republican soldiers of 1848, Garibaldi, Fabrizi—who is nearly as old as Avezzana—Medici, who is King Umberto's favorite aide, and Cosenz, a Division General in the active Army, alone survive.

Death has been even more unsparing of the patriots of the Conservative Party. The roll of the dead includes Victor Emmanuel, Cavour, and Lamarmora; Fanti, who hated Garibaldi only less than he hated the Austrians; La Farina, whom Garibaldi expelled from Sicily, whither Cavour had sent him as his agent; D'Azeglio, the author, diplomatist, and friend of Cavour; Guerrazzi, the Dictator of Tuscany, who thought to save the liberties of the Duchy by bringing back the Grand Duke with his Austrian Guard, and Schiloja, the ablest financier of the monarchy. Ricasoli still lives, but is withdrawn from public life, and is a feeble invalid. The venerable Count Mamiani has also retired from politics, though he occasionally makes addresses on educational subjects which prove that age has not dimmed his intellect. The Radicals have lost their one statesman, Ratazzi, and it is unfortunate for them that their most skillful politician, Crispi, has survived his reputation for honor and honesty, and lives to intrigue for his personal profit.

It is not strange, then, when Italy needed great men and brave soldiers she found them. In our own civil war both sides developed their leaders when the hour came. It is not heroes who made the heroic age of Italy and America, but it was the age that made Grant and Stonewall Jackson, Garibaldi and Cavour. Italy, now that her life-struggle is over, wonders that no great leaders have risen to take the places of those who are gone, but it is the law of national development. We may safely challenge any country to produce a more brilliant array of names than those which are forever linked with the Italian *Risorgimento*, and we need not doubt that should the necessity again arise, the nation will find leaders as brave as Garibaldi, as unselfish as Mamiani, and as honest as Avezzana.

PICTURES HANGED, NOT HUNG.

Perhaps artists hurry over the task assumed by the Hanging Committee because such service is disagreeable and ungrateful, but certainly it seems to the outer barbarian that those intrusted by the Academy and the Society of American Artists with the arrangement of the pictures show little adaptive faculty. It would not be easy to overestimate the worry and vexations which assail men of any marked degree of sensitiveness when the question of how and where the pictures of their friends and acquaintances shall be hung demands an imperative answer. Artists are usually sensitive to an alarming degree, and, like literary men, not infrequently irascible. Consider, then, the position of, we will say, the three men who have to dispose of 500 pictures at one of the exhibitions of the Academy. How difficult must it not be to avoid partiality, how impossible to escape censure! The fair-minded members of the committee would like to have nothing but one strip of wall to deal with, and that so narrow that every picture would be on the line. For no matter what the picture, it must go on the line. It does not follow that an artist is pleased to see his picture skied, although it may have been designed expressly for a long view. The paint may have been put on with a trowel, and the lights and darks calculated for effect at a great distance, and yet, strange to say, the artist wants that picture "on the line." Why? Because the line has an honorary significance. People think a picture that is high up is despised, because pictures that are despised are, or at least ought to be, put as far off as possible, that their defects may not offend unnecessarily. An artist may, therefore, know that his picture will really look better skied, and yet refuse to permit it to be skied. He reasons that those who know will make the necessary allowances, while those who do not will be imposed upon by the fact that it has a place of honor. Such is the tyranny exercised nowadays by that fetich of artists, the line.

Since it is the line which is in fault, there are two ways to dispose of the line. One is to abolish the line. Attempts at this have been made, but in a very desultory way. One year saw the Academy full of pictures in groups, the members of each of which belonged to the same artist. While one or two of the canvases of each were on the line, the others were disposed above, and the feeling that these latter were in any way disparaged could hardly exist. The move was good, and only unfortunate in not being repeated. If it did not abolish the line, it neutralized its deadly effect, for, of course, a choice was made in each man's work, and the picture that looked better high up was hung accordingly. The other way is to extend the line until it embraces almost all of the commendable or remarkable pictures. Why this has not been done before is indeed strange. Apparently, the Hanging Committees at the Academy have been waiting until some one adds another gallery or two to the building before obtaining such a result. Yet an extension of line can be obtained by very simple means, namely, by an extension of the ordinary method used in picture shops where choice paintings are disposed on easels. Why should not the centre of the large gallery of the Academy be fitted with a light framework, easily placed in position and quickly removable? Nearly as many pictures could be hung on it as the walls themselves contain. The framework need not be so high as to break the entire *coup d'œil* of the gallery, and might be reserved for smaller pictures that want a close inspection.

There is still a third course to pursue which would consist in a combination of the above. The tyranny of the line might be broken by resolately foregoing the present architectural system of hanging pictures. At present the Hanging Committee selects a large wall and puts a large picture in its centre. Two smaller pictures are then hung on either side for symmetry, and the still smaller grouped about them. This is supposed to please the eye as it takes in the whole side of a gallery. But while the general aspect is consulted the rights of the individual pictures are lost. The tendency is to hang by size, not by color or adaptability to light, subject or technical treatment. A big, ugly, sprawling picture (what exhibition here or abroad does not contain such?) gets a high seat in the synagogue from its mere brute elements of length and height. A smaller picture, tenfold more valuable, waits long for its chance, and easily may have to bring up in an out-of-the-way corner where it cannot be seen. The watchword for Hanging Committees, then, should be the paradox: Break the line and extend it!

The custom of celebrating the first day of the year by some religious ceremony, accompanied by festivity and general rejoicing, appears to have prevailed from the earliest recorded time. Jews, Egyptians, Chinese, Romans, and Mohammedans, notwithstanding the diversity of their reckoning, all considered the beginning of the year a day of importance, and observed it with certain forms. In old Rome the year began with March, and when Numa, as the legend runs, changed it to January, the 1st of this month was held sacred to Janus Bifrons, supposed to turn his back upon the old and his face to the new year. When Christianity had been established, the pagan celebration of the New Year was retained with variations and modifications. Christmas Day, the Annunciation, (March 25,) Easter Day, and March 1, have been regarded at different periods and places as the first of the year, and it was not until the sixteenth century that Jan. 1 was universally accepted. Some of the early ecclesiastics, known as Fathers of the Church, were so hostile to what they ranked as the immoral and superstitious ceremonies of the heathen festival that they interdicted any social commemoration of it, ordering the day to be marked by fasting, humiliation, and prayer. The order was, however, but partially obeyed. The festal character of the day was preserved, though its religious associations were continued. New Year's has been socially honored in much the same way during all ages. From the remotest time there has been jostling and present-making. Suetonius and Tacitus refer to those customs in Rome which were surpassed by the Christian excesses into which the Roman Empire was divided. In France, Germany, and Great Britain festive and gift-giving still prevail, though the abundance of Christmas-giving has interested its kindred with New Year's presents. In many countries Dec. 31, or St. Sylvester's Eve, is celebrated noisily and, generally, the entertainment being kept up until after midnight, when New Year's was ushered in with congratulations, compliments, visits, and good wishes for the year. In some parts of the Republic, mainly in the West and South, presents are yet made on the present time, but the custom is steadily diminishing because Jan. 1 follows too close upon Dec. 25. New Year's calls are made in various cities of Europe, especially in Paris and St. Petersburg, and the habit is extending. These were first introduced into this country, where social visits were paid by men to their feminine friends and acquaintances, at long ago as the settlement of the town by the Dutch. Calls have for many years been made on this day in other cities, particularly in those of the Southern and Western States. In New-England, always more localized than other sections to cleave to the old and the established, New Year's visits have heretofore been few, but they are growing in number, even in conservative Boston.

January would seem to be a month of evil omen for modern sovereigns, whose deaths and disasters form a very large proportion of its most noteworthy anniversaries. On the 1st, Charles the Bold, of Burgundy, was killed by the Swiss, in 1477, and the allied armies entered France, in 1814, to begin the campaign that overthrew Napoleon. On the 5th, the death of Edward the Confessor ushered in the series of complications which ended in the Norman conquest of England. On the 9th, Napoleon III. died in exile. Louis XVI. was beheaded on the 21st, and the 23d brought the same fate to the ambitious Duke of Somerset, Regent and virtual King of England during the minority of Edward VI. The 30th was doubly fatal to the house of Stuart, having witnessed both the execution of Charles I. and the death of Prince Charles Edward, the hero of the final attempt to expel the Hanoverian dynasty in 1745. But apart from these tragedies, the Wolf-Month, as the Saxons called it, is rich in other and less gloomy associations. The present Emperor of Germany became King of Prussia on the 2d. Sophia was taken by the Russians on the 3d, (1877,) and the Turkish army captured at Schipka Pass on the 9th. The destruction of England's Kabul army in 1842 marks the 9th. The 14th witnessed the seizure of Danish ships in British ports, (1801,) which preluded the destruction of the whole Danish fleet by Nelson at Copenhagen two months later. Fort Fisher fell on the 15th. Gen. Skobeleff's brilliant victory at Shenovo, which virtually ended the Russo-Turkish war, marks the 17th, which has also the greater renown of the birth of Benjamin Franklin. On the 18th, the German Empire was established by King William's assumption of the imperial crown at Versailles. The same day witnessed the birth of Louis XIV.'s famous Minister, Louvois. Lords Bacon and Byron were born on the 22d. On the 23d, the Duke of Edinburgh married the Czar's only daughter, Maria Alexandrovna. The 24th is the birthday of Frederick the Great. Paris was taken on the 28th, (1870,) and Ehrenbreitstein, for the first and last time, on the 29th, (1799.) The 30th witnessed the execution of Guy Fawkes and the marriage of Napoleon III. to Eugenie de Montijo. To the same list may be added the first sailing of Warren Hastings for India as an unknown civilian, (1750,) the storming of the great Sikh fortress of Moultan by the British, (1849,) and the reorganization of the Russian Army, (1874.)

The Rabelais Club, just organized in London, has several very bright writers on its list of original members. It includes—to mention only those who are best known on this side—such men as Lord Houghton, Sir Frederick Pollock, Edmond About, Walter Besant, Du Maurier, Thomas Hardy, Bret Harte, Henry Irving, Henry James, Jr., Joseph Knight, G. G. Leland, Prof. E. H. Palmer, and James Payn. The *Athenæum* assures us that the objects of the club are "the furtherance of the study of Rabelais, the formation of a Rabelaisian library, and the publication of works illustrative of Pantagruelism." These are pleasant purposes, and will monthly engage some portion of the leisure moments of the gentlemen of the club. But if they are good Pantagruelists, they will not make too serious a task of the study of Rabelais. Many learned men, deeply versed in the tangled politics of France in the sixteenth century, and familiar with all the details of the ecclesiastical movements of that age, which had their centres in Rome, Paris, Geneva, and Germany, have sat up very late o'nights over Rabelais, laboring to discover his hidden meanings and to measure the force and direction of his satires. Scores of keys to his writings have been devised, half none of them fit. The wisest conclusion is that no key is needed. There is nothing locked up. A man receives from a friend a large package. The well-tied outer wrapper conceals an inner one, the inner a third, and so on through a series of a dozen. The last contains nothing. It is sometimes hard to believe that the whole thing is a joke, and quite likely the recipient goes down on his knees and patiently gropes the carpet for the precious something that may have dropped. Rabelais's baffling obscurity begets and feeds the suspicion that a whole system of philosophy or a wealth of undiscovered meaning must lie beneath the surface. The best commentators give up this belief. It is not easy to decide whether Rabelais was greater as a philosopher or as a buffoon, and it is not wise to bother about deciding either way. It is certain that those who read him as he would be read himself, his "thrice-precious" *amys lectors*, make no deep and wearying scrutiny into his motives, but take him with all his infinite wit, spirit, raillery, fun, coarseness, and sarcasm, simply as a diversement, with no other purpose than relief from the cares of this world. These are readers after the master-mocker's own heart. Does he not himself define Pantagruelism to be a "*certaine gayeté d'esperit confiteo en despit des choses fortuites?*" We hope the Rabelais Club of London will not attempt to reason out a complete system of Pantagruelism, and to push it to its final development. The precious Abbey of Thelème, with its charming company of courteous gentlemen and gentle ladies living according to their guiding principle of "do as you please, but don't make any fuss about it," tumbles stone upon stone if you undermine its foundations with the cold-iron tools of logic.

GENERAL NOTES.

The Baltimore *Sun's* political and general almanac is the first of the series of 1880 to reach us, and a very neatly-printed and comprehensive document it is.

The Knoxville (Tenn.) *Chronicle* (Republican) and the Nashville *American* (Democratic) agree in saying that there is not the remotest possibility of a union between the Republicans and the low-tax men in Tennessee.

The Akron (Ohio) *Beacon* has interviewed a number of prominent Republicans of Akron and vicinity and finds that they all, with one exception, give a decided preference for Grant for President, irrespective of Sherman or any other candidate.

The Newark *Advertiser* says that whether the rumor that Mr. Courtlandt Parker has been selected for the Mission to England is founded on fact or fancy, Mr. Parker is himself innocent, as he has received no direct or authentic information on the subject.

Major W. T. Walthall, of Mobile, Ala., has written a long letter to the Atlanta (Ga.) Constitution to show that Gen. Robert Toombs was in error in his assertion that the election of Jefferson Davis as President of the so-called Southern Confederacy was an "accident."

The Chicago *Tribune* says that ex-Gov. Washburn of Wisconsin, has just given the Wisconsin Industrial Association 40 acres of land in the vicinity of Mineral Point, his old home, to be used as permanent fair-grounds. He had previously given $50,000 to the State University for an astronomical observatory, and had given the State his country seat, near Madison, for an Industrial School for Girls.

The Providence

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION.

A FORMAL CALL ISSUED BY CHAIRMAN CAMERON—APPOINTMENT OF A SUB-COMMITTEE TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE HALL.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—Chairman Cameron, of the National Republican Committee, issued to-day the following call:

A National Convention of the Republican Party will meet at Chicago on Wednesday, the 2d day of June next, at 12 o'clock noon, for the nomination of candidates to be supported for President and Vice-President at the next election. Republicans, and all who will co-operate with them in supporting the nominees of the party, are invited to choose two delegates from each Congressional district, four at large from each State, two from each Territory, and two from the District of Columbia, to represent them in the Convention.

J. D. CAMERON, Chairman.
THOMAS B. KEOGH, Secretary.

The formal call thus made will clear up some confusion which has hitherto prevailed as to the date fixed for the convention. Chairman Cameron also gives notice of the appointment of the Hon. C. I. Filley, of Missouri; the Hon. John C. New, of Indiana, and the Hon. Powell Clayton, of Arkansas, to be members of the sub-committee of the National Committee appointed by that body to take charge of the convention hall. The resolution authorizing the appointment of this sub-committee provides that the Chairman and Secretary of the National Committee shall also be members.

ERRORS IN THE REVISED STATUTES.

A BILL WHICH WOULD ALLOW IMPORTERS TO RECOVER LARGE SUMS PAID IN DUTIES.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—On the calendar of the House there is a bill "to explain the Revised Statutes relative to duties on imported merchandise," which deserves special attention. In codifying and compiling the Revised Statutes, a number of mistakes and some blunders were made, as, for instance, the restoration of certain provisions of law which had been repealed, and the omission of certain other provisions which had been added to the laws in the form of amendments. The bill in question proposes to correct errors of this kind in those chapters of the Revised Statutes which impose duties on imported merchandise, on some articles of which the rates of duty were changed. It provides that the Revised Statutes "shall not be so construed or interpreted as to levy any duty on merchandise free of duty on the 1st day of December, 1873, or to increase the duty or the rate of duty on any article of imported merchandise over and above the duty or rate of duty chargeable under the Revenue laws of the United States, in force on the 1st day of December, 1873."

This bill was introduced by Mr. Lapham, of New-York, at the extra session, referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, of which Mr. Lapham is a member, and was reported to the House favorably by a majority of the committee, and referred to the Committee of the Whole. Messrs. Knott, Herbert, Hammond, and New, constituting the minority of the committee, united in making an adverse report. It appears that the Revised Statutes changed the law as it existed on Dec. 1, 1873, by increasing the rate of duty on argols partly refined, from 3 to 6 cents per pound. Certain persons engaged in the importation of argols, prior to the revision of the laws, had entered into contracts for the sale of argols, running for future years, and had goods to a large amount in bond in New-York. They continued to transact their business on the basis of the law as it existed for several months before the new rate of duty was known to them or discovered by the revenue officers. After such discovery, the Treasury ruled that the increased duty, the increased rate of duty in all transactions occuring thereafter, but relinquidated all duties upon such argols which had been imported before such discovery since Dec. 1, 1873, and upon all goods in bond on that day. The increased duty was paid under protest and suit brought in the United States Court, resulting in a verdict in favor of the Government.

This is substantially the statement made by the majority of the Committee on the Judiciary in their report urging the passage of the bill. The importers, whose case is made the basis of the argument in the majority report, have, doubtless an equitable claim upon Congress for relief to the extent of the loss sustained by the increased duty paid on their importations up to the time of the discovery that the rate of duty on argols had been doubled, but it does not follow that such a comprehensive and sweeping law as that proposed by Mr. Lapham should be enacted. The rates of duty on merchandise, other than argols, were increased by the Revised Statutes, and in some instances the rates were decreased, and should Mr. Lapham's bill be passed it would lead to innumerable demands upon the Treasury and to the recovery of an amount of money which cannot be intelligently estimated. The fact that the business of a few importers has been affected by the changes in the law will not justify the passage of a bill so broad that a large number of importers who have not been injuriously affected could dive into the sash vaults of the Treasury.

There had been filed at the Treasury Department up to June 30 last, 3,708 protests against the payment of rates of duty on imported merchandise changed by the enactment of the compilation of the Revised Statutes, and this number only includes the protests received on the principal articles upon which the rates of duty were increased. The following list shows the number of protests entered and appeals taken on the several articles named:

Castile soap	352	Linens, over	2,500
Chicory	126	Sheepskins with	
Argols	258	wool on	99
Leakage on ale, &c.	65	Jute rejections	38
Breakage on ale, &c.	260		

Mr. Lapham's bill would permit a recovery from the United States in all the above cases, and its effect would be to take from the Treasury a large amount of money and put it into the pockets of importers, who have already, by the increased price put upon their goods, collected from their customers the sums which would be reimbursed. The minority of the committee, in their report, say:

"When an importer is compelled by the Government to pay an increased rate of duty, we suppose that according to the course of trade he would always, when in his power to do so, charge his customer an increased price. We cannot conceive that either the importer or the customer to whom he sells would regulate their dates according to the motives, methods, or mistakes of the law-makers. They should buy and sell according to the rates they are forced to pay. The sole question with them must always be what is the law, and this is a question for the courts. The Government has the power to change at pleasure the rates of duty on articles of merchandise, but we cannot think that power has constitutionally changed the law, we think it would be unwise and unjust to reimburse to importers moneys collected from them, and upon which they had charged the consumer, a credit on the ground that Congress did not intend to do what it did do."

The minority report concludes by expressing the conviction that it would be establishing a dangerous precedent if Congress should grant relief to any importer solely on the ground that he had formed himself, at the time a change of the law was made, embarrassed by contracts of future purchase and sale. Such a course would place the Government at the mercy of any importer who might see proper thus to make contracts for the future; and, it is argued, therefore, that the safe rule is that every citizen, importer and consumer alike, must contract with reference to the right and power of Congress to change the law at pleasure.

THE TROUBLE WITH THE UTES.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—Secretary Schurz to-day received two dispatches from Gen. Hatch, written at Uline's Ranch on Dec. 29 and 30 respectively. One of them informs the Secretary for the first time, that among the Indians offered for surrender on the 25th inst., but whom surrender was not received, were Douglass, the hostile chief, and several other of the principal culprits concerned in the Meeker massacre. The last sentence of the other dispatch seems to indicate that after Gen. Hatch refused to receive the surrender of these Indians, they were permitted to go to the Lower Grand River on a hunt for game, and if they are not likely to be found again for a month. Secretary Schurz entertains considerable doubt as to this being the real meaning of the dispatch, and he has telegraphed for explicit information. Uline's Ranch, at which these dispatches are dated is 19 miles nearer than Los Pinos to the White River Agency, and 26 miles nearer to Lake City. It is inferred that Gen. Hatch and his party do not consider themselves in danger, as these dispatches do not express any apprehension of that kind.

THE TREATY RIGHTS OF JAPAN.

WHY A REVISION OF EXISTING TREATIES IS SOUGHT—A MISUNDERSTANDING EXPLAINED.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—The news dispatches from Japan, published to-day, in reference to a renewal of the efforts on the part of that Government to secure a revision of existing commercial treaties with European Governments, state that there is considerable irritation among Americans resident in Japan over the obvious discrimination favoring English imports. "This discrimination," the dispatch says, "is felt to be ungracious, in view of the friendship often manifested toward Japan by the United States. There is evidently a misunderstanding of the exact purpose of the Japanese Government in seeking to have her treaties with European powers revised. Under a treaty made in 1866 with the United States, Great Britain, France, and Holland, Japan is practically deprived from regulating duties on imports and exports, and cannot even regulate her own coasting trade and port charges; all of these matters, so far as they concern the commerce of the treaty powers, being provided for in the treaty. This was, perhaps, well enough when the treaty in question was made, but Japan has arrived at that state of moral and commercial importance among civilized nations when she should no longer be subjected to tutelage by older nations to whom she granted certain commercial advantages. For several years the Government of Japan has been endeavoring to induce the treaty powers to abrogate those provisions of the treaty which deprive her of commercial freedom and the control of her local commerce, but the jealousy of the treaty powers toward each other has frustrated her efforts in this direction. Each of the powers has declined to take the initiative, fearing that the advantage thus surrendered would be maintained by the others.

Finally, the United States yielded to the request of the Japanese Government, and a treaty was concluded at Washington on July 25, 1878, the first article of which annuls the objectionable provisions of the treaty of 1866, as well as certain objectionable provisions in the treaty of 1858. In the treaty of 1878 it is declared: "That from the time when this present convention shall take effect, the United States will recognize the exclusive power and right of the Japanese Government to adjust the Customs tariff and taxes and to establish regulations appertaining to foreign commerce in the open ports of Japan." The Japanese Government represented to the United States that if the latter would consent to negotiate this treaty it would enable Japan to present a strong demand to the other treaty powers for the negotiation of a like treaty, and in consideration of this surrender on the part of the United States, privileges were incorporated in the treaty of 1878 of greater commercial value than those annulled. For instance, the export duties which Japan is permitted to impose under existing treaties are repealed upon all merchandise shipped to the United States, and two additional ports are opened to our citizens and our commerce. This treaty was negotiated as an act of justice toward Japan, and as a matter of commercial policy; and, in order that the United States shall not suffer thereby, it is stipulated in Article 10 of the treaty that the present convention shall take effect when Japan shall have concluded such conventions, or revisions of existing treaties, with all the other treaty powers holding relations with Japan, as shall be similar in effect to the present convention. Article 9 of the treaty of 1854, negotiated by Commodore Perry, provides: "It is agreed that, if at any future day the Government of Japan shall grant to any nation, or nations, privileges and advantages which are not herein granted to the United States and the citizens thereof, these same privileges and advantages shall be granted likewise to the United States and the citizens thereof, without any consultation or delay." Article 4 of the treaty of 1858 provides: "No higher duties shall be paid by Americans on goods imported into Japan than are fixed by this treaty, nor shall higher duties be paid by Americans than are levied on the same description of goods it imported in Japanese vessels, or the vessels of any other nation." The above provisions are not annulled by the treaty of 1878, and will, of course, remain in full force after that treaty shall go into effect. It will be seen from the foregoing explanation that the efforts of Japan in reference to securing the consent of the European powers to a revision of the treaty of 1866 are not properly understood by Americans residing in Japan, and that such residents have no cause whatever to fear that Japan will discriminate in favor of English imports or those of any other European power.

DEATH OF SENATOR HOUSTON.

HIS LONG POLITICAL CAREER ENDED—DELEGATIONS OF SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES TO ATTEND HIS FUNERAL.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Dec. 31.—The Hon. George S. Houston, United States Senator from this State, died at his home, at Athens, at 9 o'clock this morning. This news causes much sorrow. The offices at the Capitol are all closed as a mark of respect to his memory. Gov. Cobb and many prominent citizens will go to Athens to attend the funeral services on Friday next.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—Senators Morgan, of Alabama; Eaton, of Connecticut; Allison, of Iowa, and Blair, of New-Hampshire, as a committee in behalf of the Senate, left here to-night for Alabama, to attend the funeral of the late Senator Houston, accompanied by a similar committee from the House, consisting of Representatives Herndon, Shelley, and Herbert, of Alabama; Culberson, of Texas, and Thomas, of Illinois. The committees were accompanied by Sergeant-at-Arms Bright, of the Senate, and G. G. Lindsey, of Alabama.

The Hon. George Smith Houston was born in Williamson County, Tenn., Jan. 17, 1811, and was, therefore, at the time of his death, within a few days of attaining the age of 69 years. When quite young he removed to Alabama, where he was educated and has since resided. On graduating from the public schools he began the study of the law, and soon after reaching his majority was admitted to the Bar, and practiced in Limestone County. After serving two terms as a member of the Alabama Legislature, he was elected District Solicitor in 1837. In 1841 he was elected a Representative in the Twenty-seventh Congress, and served continuously until 1849, when he retired voluntarily for the purpose of resuming the practice of the law. In 1851, however, he was again returned to the lower house of Congress, and was re-elected at the expiration of every term without opposition, until 1861, when, on Jan. 21, he resigned, Alabama having seceded from the Union. During his career in the House of Representatives he was a member of several of the most important committees, and during the Thirty-fifth Congress officiated as Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary. He was also at one time Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means. In 1866 Mr. Houston was elected to the United States Senate, but was not permitted to sit in that body, Alabama not having been reconstructed. He was a delegate to the so-called National Union Convention, held at Philadelphia in 1866, and in 1874 was elected Governor of Alabama, a position which he held until the Fall of 1878, when he was chosen United States Senator to succeed George E. Spencer. Senator Houston took his seat at the beginning of the extra session, March 18, 1879, and his term would not have expired until March 3, 1885.

OTHER DEATHS.

E. Wallace Blackman, a journalist, died at New-Haven yesterday morning, at the age of 41 years. He formerly practiced law in New-Haven, and subsequently was editor of the Scranton (Penn.) *Register*. He was then city editor of the Providence *Herald*, and, associate editor of the New-Haven *Register*, and recently editor of the Indianapolis *Sentinel*.

Capt. Welch, the well-known commander of the able steamer Minie, died on board the steamer Rete, at sea, on Christmas Day. Accompanied by his wife, he left Halifax on Dec. 23, in the Rete, for Bermuda for the benefit of his health. He had been ill several months.

Sir A. Burt, Chief-Justice of West Australia, is dead.

JANUARY PRICES FOR COAL.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 31.—The prices of coal at Mauch Chunk were announced by the Lehigh coal operators this morning as follows: Lump, $3 75; broken, egg and chestnut No. 1, $3 50; stove and small stove, $3 60; chestnut No. 3, $1 50. These figures are the same as those which have ruled in the Lehigh trade for two months. The assumption, which is fixed for Monday next, will not be general, as the present sluggish state of the market has induced many individual operators to seek trade the remainder, which, in some cases, may be prolonged two weeks.

DENYING HAYDEN'S STORY

SEVERAL POINTS IN HIS TESTIMONY IMPEACHED.

THE NEAREST NEIGHBOR OF THE ACCUSED SUPPLIES SOME FLAT CONTRADICTIONS—A CLERGYMAN WHO DENIES THE TRUTH OF MRS. HAYDEN'S STATEMENT—EFFORTS TO SHOW ANIMUS AGAINST THE PRISONER.

NEW-HAVEN, Dec. 31.—The prosecution in the Hayden trial made considerable progress in the presentation of their rebutting testimony to-day, a large number of witnesses being examined. Mr. Hayden's story was flatly contradicted on a number of points by several witnesses. Perhaps the most important contradiction was that with reference to the time Mr. Hayden was absent from the Rockland oyster supper in March, 1878. The accused himself, as well as Mrs. Hayden, testified that he was absent only about 10 minutes, and that about 9 o'clock in the evening, but the State to-day produced a witness who swore that he was absent two hours, from 10 to 12 o'clock. A sister of the murdered girl also testified that Mr. Hayden was at his house alone with Mary between 11 and 12 o'clock that evening. Mrs. Hayden's story was also contradicted by the Rev. Mr. Gibbs, the Rockland Methodist minister, who swore that she told him that her husband left home on the afternoon of the homicide at 1:30 o'clock. Mrs. Hayden, in her testimony, denied making any such statement to Mr. Gibbs. It was the purpose of the State to have put Benjamin Stevens on the stand to-day, and they sent two physicians with a covered carriage to bring him here from Rockland. They returned without him, however, finding him, as they believed, at the point of death. In the event of his death, the State will take steps to introduce his testimony as given at the Madison trial. In spite of the strong objections of some of the counsel in the case, the court decided to hold a session to-morrow, New Year's Day.

Luserne Stevens, who was Mr. Hayden's nearest neighbor in Rockland, was the first witness of the day. He testified that he trimmed the bush in front of his house several weeks before the homicide, so that it did not interfere with the view of the Hayden house from his front windows. Witness had known Andrew Hazlett for 15 years, and had never heard him called by any other name except in this court. Mr. Hayden accompanied witness to the place where the body lay on the evening of the homicide, and he then wore a striped shirt, and not a white one, as he had testified. This shirt was similar to those shown in court. Mr. Hayden wore no coat that evening. Witness was at the Rockland oyster supper in March, 1878, and swore that Mr. Hayden absented himself from it at least two hours—from 10 to 12 o'clock. On this point Mr. Hayden had testified that he was absent less than 15 minutes, and that the time of his absence was between 9 and 10 o'clock.

On cross-examination, Mr. Jones asked the witness if he was not very bitter against the accused; whether he had not said he would do all he could to hang the minister, and whether he had not thought up everything he could to contradict Mr. Hayden? To all of these questions the witness answered in the negative. In answer to other questions, the witness said he remembered what Mr. Hayden wore, but could not remember anything about the clothing of the other members of the party who visited the scene of the homicide that evening.

On the redirect examination, the witness again denied having any bitter feeling toward Mr. Hayden. He also testified that on the day before the homicide he led a cow through an opening in the north-west corner of Mr. Hayden's barn, which Mr. Hayden had testified was boarded up at that time. Mr. Hayden had said in his testimony that he could not get into his barn through that opening, except by climbing over a girder, but witness had no difficulty in leading the cow through under the girder. Witness inspected the barn recently and saw no indications of any boards having been nailed up where Mr. Hayden had testified.

In answer to Mr. Jones, the witness said he should judge the cow was something over three feet high. He would swear, however, that the animal was not six inches higher than the space under the girder.

A photograph showing the height of the girder under which the witness had led the cow was shown the jury by Mr. Jones. Continuing his cross-examination, Mr. Jones drew from the witness an admission that he had found three or four nail-holes on the sides of the aperture in the barn when he visited it recently. He would not swear that there were any nail-holes on the sides of the girder.

To Mr. Waller the witness stated that the cow had grown considerably since the homicide, and was much taller now than when he led her under the girder. He did not know that Mr. Hayden's barn had ever been boarded up he knew of no reason why the boards should have been taken away.

James C. Scranton, the next witness, testified that he had worked in Mr. Hayden's wood-lot, and that there was no such difficulty as the accused had testified to in taking a horse or ox team to any portion of the lot. Witness carted wood from the lot in August, 1878, and had no trouble in driving to and from the place where the wood lay. Continuing, Mr. Scranton said he was a member of the Coroner's jury that first investigated the murder of Mary Stannard, and he remembered that Mr. Hayden testified before that jury that he left his house to go to his wood-lot on the afternoon of the homicide right after dinner, about 1 o'clock.

"Wouldn't that expression, 'right after dinner,' indicate in Rockland about 1 o'clock?" asked Mr. Watrous.

"I don't know," replied the witness. "Sometimes I have dinner at 10 or 11 o'clock."

"Isn't there any generally recognized dinner hour in Rockland?"

"I suppose 12 o'clock is the time."

"Then, if a man said he did something 'right after dinner,' you would suppose he meant about 1 o'clock?"

"Yes, Sir."

"Did you hear Mr. Hayden say that he usually went to work in the afternoon about 1 o'clock?"

"No, Sir."

"You were in the same room with Juror James Hill and heard all that he heard?"

"I was in the same room and heard all the testimony."

"Was the wood which you carted a short time before the homicide piled before you went for it?"

"Yes, Sir; I supposed it was piled for measuring."

"Have you ever found it necessary to throw out wood in that lot before carting it?" asked Mr. Harrison.

"No, Sir."

John B. Wright was then called, and testified that in October last he had gone from the end of the "ribbon" path on the old Durham road to the new road, then to Burr's barn, across to Hayden's corn field, and then to the rock in the potato-patch back of Hayden's house in 9½ minutes. He then went from this rock to the wood-lot in 7¾ minutes, and had walked from Mr. Hayden's house to the place where the body of Mary Stannard was found in 15 minutes.

On cross-examination, the witness said he did not walk as fast as he could while timing himself over these distances. He did not know how many miles he could walk in an hour. He judged he had walked at the rate of four miles an hour while going over the route referred to. He admitted this was pretty brisk walking, but no faster than he usually went while on business. He had been requested to walk as his counsel had told him. From the place where the body lay he walked to the Stannard house in nine minutes, and thence to the spring in three and a half minutes.

"Then it took you nearly half an hour to make the round trip, didn't it?" asked Mr. Watrous.

"Yes, Sir," answered the witness.

"Haven't you said within a week or two that Hayden was guilty, thought ought to be hanged, and that too, without trial?"

"No, Sir, I have not."

"Haven't you spoken on this subject to a lady in this court-room, and didn't she say, 'Well, my dear Sir, everybody doesn't think as you do?'"

"Possibly. I have given my opinion when any one asked for it."

"Haven't you made it a point to ridicule and laugh when the accused has been on the stand?"

"No, Sir."

"Haven't you put on a smile of derision and contempt designedly while listening to this case?"

"No, Sir."

"Weren't you at the Madison trial day after day without being summoned?"

"Yes, Sir."

"How far did you have to travel to court?"

"Four miles."

"Will you do," said Mr. Watrous, and Mr. Harrison asked, "Have you any hostility to Mr. Hayden?"

"No, Sir," answered the witness, who was thereupon excused.

The Rev. T. W. Gibbs, Methodist minister of Rockland, was next called. He testified that he had frequently visited Mr. Hayden's barn previous to the homicide. There was an opening in the north-west corner, which was frequently used in going into or coming from the barn. He had never seen any boards nailed up closing any part of the opening. The week after the homicide he visited the barn, and saw no boards nailed over the aperture. There was a girder across the opening from three to three and a half feet from the ground, under which he thought Mr. Hayden's cow, which was a small one, could be led. On the Saturday after the homicide the witness and his wife visited Mrs. Hayden. They conversed about the murder, and witness asked Mrs. Hayden what time in the afternoon her husband left the house that day. Mrs. Hayden's answer, as near as witness could recollect, was in the following words: "You know Mr. Hayden always ate a small one, could he not. He then sat down and played with the children awhile. I don't know exactly what time he left, but it might have been a quarter past one, half past one, or a quarter to two. I think it was about half past one." Witness said that a lady—Mrs. Ellsworth Scranton—was present in the room when the conversation occurred.

On cross-examination the witness said that Mr. Hayden succeeded him after his first term as Pastor of the Rockland Church, and that he succeeded Mr. Hayden when the latter went to South Madison to preach. There was no ill-feeling, the witness said, on his part because Mr. Hayden supplanted him. When he was stationed at Rockland the second time he visited Mrs. Hayden's family, at most frequently. He did not visit Mrs. Hayden on the Saturday after the murder for the purpose of securing any damaging admissions from her. Besides Mrs. Scranton and the witness's wife and little girl there was no one who could have heard his conversation with Mrs. Hayden.

"Have you ever had any doubt about that conversation with Mrs. Hayden?" asked Mr. Jones.

"No, Sir," replied the witness with emphasis.

"Have you not said to Mrs. Ellsworth Scranton that you had no distinct recollection of what Mrs. Hayden said?"

"No, Sir."

"Have you said to any one besides Mrs. Scranton that you did not recollect exactly what Mrs. Hayden said?"

"I don't remember saying any such thing to any one."

"Do you know John H. Tuttle, lawyer, of this city?"

"Yes, Sir."

"Have you had any conversation with him about the matter?"

"I don't remember."

"And yet you profess to remember exactly what Mrs. Hayden said to you over a year ago. Have you not said to Mr. Tuttle that you hated to testify in this case because you could not recollect exactly what Mrs. Hayden said to you?"

The witness shook his head in a hesitating way.

"Do you claim such a conversation, Mr. Jones?" asked Mr. Waller.

"I do," replied Mr. Jones, and again addressing the witness said:

"You say you did not have such a conversation with Mr. Tuttle?"

"I don't say so," replied the witness, "I say I don't remember."

"Do you remember anything except what Mrs. Hayden told you? Haven't you called old Mrs. Eliza Stone, a member of your church, a Judas, because she sympathized with Mr. Hayden?"

"No, Sir."

"Haven't you preached on the subject of Mary Stannard's death?"

"I don't remember. I preached a sermon on Judas."

After further cross-examination Mr. Waller again took the witness in hand, and asked:

"Mr. Gibbs, are you conscious of the least hostility toward this man, the accused?"

"No, Sir," replied the clergyman.

"Have you ever had any such feeling?"

"No, Sir."

J. E. Scranton testified that he owned the Hayden wood-lot and was quite familiar with it. He had often cut and carted wood from the lot and burned coal there; he had been upon the lot in all portions of it, with all sorts of teams, and never experienced any difficulty such as described by the accused man. He had driven his teams to all parts of the lot, picking up the wood where it lay. He had never himself or known any one else pile up wood in the lot before carting it away; he had taken wood from the lot at all seasons for seven or eight years, and never experienced any particular difficulty in so doing. He once accompanied Mr. Hayden into the woods where Mary Stannard was murdered. At one time during this trip they were in sight of Fox Ledge, near which the body was found. The trip was made a year or two before the homicide.

On cross-examination, the witness said that, although they were at one time near Fox Ledge, he could not swear that he saw the ledge, and he had no recollection of calling Mr. Hayden's attention to it. The witness never heard of Big Rock or Whippoorwill Rock until after the homicide. He admitted there were some soft places in the Hayden wood lot, and he did not intend to claim there were not. What he meant was that the lot generally was suitable for driving over. There were some vines and briars in the lot, but not enough to trouble him much.

"Supposing there was wood on the lot, some of it sunken into the bog and overgrown with annoying vegetation, would there be anything unreasonable in throwing it out and piling it up before carting it?" asked Mr. Watrous.

"I should think it might be well enough to do so," replied the witness.

Imogene Stannard, sister of the murdered girl, was the next witness. Her testimony was concerning the Rockland oyster supper in March, 1878, at which she was present with her half brother, Charles Hawley. She stated that she and her brother left the oyster supper about 11 o'clock in the evening and went to Mr. Hayden's house to see their sister Mary, who was staying that evening with the Hayden children. Mr. Hayden left the supper at about the same time, and all three went to Mr. Hayden's house together. The defense objecting to the witness stating the conversation which occurred at the house, questions on this point were withdrawn by Mr. Waller. The witness stated that her object in going to Mr. Hayden's that evening was to give Mary a letter which she had written for her, and also to see if Mary was ready to go home. The witness said she and her brother staid at Mr. Hayden's only a few minutes, going away soon after 11 o'clock, leaving Mr. Hayden and Mary alone together. The children were not present, and the witness saw and heard nothing to indicate that they were not in bed.

On cross-examination, the witness said she had no watch with her at the oyster supper, saw no clock in the house, and asked no one the time. She knew it was 11 o'clock, however, when she left the house, because her brother, who was with her, had a watch and looked at it while at Mr. Hayden's. The witness saw a clock at Mr. Hayden's, but was not confident that it was running. The witness was cross-examined closely by Mr. Watrous concerning the size, location, &c., of the clock she saw at Mr. Hayden's. Dropping this matter finally, Mr. Watrous asked:

"Have you ever said that when you went into Mr. Hayden's house that night, Mr. Hayden was lying upon the lounge or sofa?"

"I did not," said the witness. "I've never said anything of the kind."

"Haven't you said that you found Mr. Hayden on the lounge, and when you asked Mary to go home he said he had a headache, and she couldn't go home then, but must stay all night?"

"No, Sir; I never have."

Mr. Waller again questioned the witness, and asked:

"Have you ever said to any one anything different on this topic from the story you have told here to-day?"

This question was objected to, and, after argument, was ruled out.

In answer to other questions by Mr. Waller, the witness stated that when she was at Mr. Hayden's house that evening he was in the kitchen.

"Why did you not Mary go home with you that night?" asked Mr. Waller.

"Mr. Hayden asked her to stay," was the answer.

"Did he make any allusion to the absence of his wife?"

This question was objected to, and finally withdrawn.

Court, at 6 o'clock, adjourned until 9 A. M. to-morrow.

THROWN DOWN AN EMBANKMENT.

SIX PERSONS SERIOUSLY INJURED BY AN ACCIDENT CAUSED BY A BROKEN RAIL.

ST. PAUL, Minn., Dec. 31.—A through express train on the Iowa and Minnesota Division of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad was two hours late this forenoon. On approaching Mendota Junction, near this city, and while running at a high rate of speed, on an embankment, three coaches, including a sleeping-car, left the track. The sleeping-car rolled down the embankment to the river, a distance of 60 feet, but the fall was somewhat broken by the track of the Sioux City Road, half-way down the descent. The car was smashed to pieces, and six passengers who were in it were taken out insensible. At first it was thought that one or more were killed, but all are alive, though seriously injured. No one forward of the sleeping-car was hurt. The accident was caused by a broken rail.

The following is a list of those injured:

Mrs. Prior, wife of Superintendent Prior, of the Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway, of Minneapolis, injured on the head, back, and body.

Dr. O. A. Stewart, of Winona, badly injured internally.

Edward Blood, proprietor of the St. James Hotel, Redwing, slightly bruised about the head.

Mrs. Blood, wife of Edward Blood, seriously injured, and supposed at first to have been killed.

The Rev. Mr. Cowdery, of Minneapolis, slightly hurt.

Prof. H. E. Whitney, of Shattuck School, Faribault, feet crushed, probably so badly as to make amputation necessary.

SHOOTING CONTESTS IN A STORM.

TRENTON, N. J., Dec. 31.—An interesting pigeon-shoot took place outside the city yesterday afternoon between George Grey, of Bergen, and William D. Phelps, of this city. The stipulations of the match were: 50 birds a man, $50 a side, 21 yards rise, 80 yards boundary, 2 traps, find, trap, and handle. Mr. Grey was the favorite from the start, and got a lead by the time he shot his twentieth round, which he maintained to the finish. The scores stood—Grey, 39; Phelps, 34.

ASBURY PARK, N. J., Dec. 31.—The rifle shooting here to-day was for a marksman's silver badge. The shooting was held on the shore target, close to Deal Beach. The conditions were: 100 yards, 10 rounds, standing position, any rifle. The best scores were: Greening, 41; Loomis, 39; Brosdman, a lower 39; Wilson, 38; Cutting, 37.

BATONNE CITY, N. J., Dec. 31.—A return match of 100 birds was shot here this afternoon between Messrs. Sommers, of Newark, and De Long, Jr., of Brooklyn. The conditions were 50 birds each, H and T traps, Long Island Gun Club rules. Both men stood at 25 yards. In the former match De Long achieved an easy victory over his opponent. No money was up on to-day's match, the marksmen shooting on their own merits, the only penalty being that the loser pay for the birds and trapping. The result was very close and the match exciting on the finish, the last bird giving the victory to Sommers, with a score of 36 to De Long's 35.

AN EDITOR ARRESTED FOR LIBEL.

CINCINNATI, Ohio, Dec. 31.—Richard Smith, of the *Gazette*, was arrested at 1 o'clock to-day on a warrant sworn out by Chief of Police Wappenstein, charging a criminal libel. The matter which gave rise to the arrest was the publication in the *Gazette* yesterday of interviews charging Mr. Wappenstein with complicity with a number of gamblers. Arty Duffy, who was attacked and beaten by gamblers in Vine-street yesterday, asserted, in an interview, that certain gambling-houses, which were not raided, had paid a royalty to the Police, and that he knew it. The *Gazette* has been making a bitter fight against the Police management. When Mr. Smith was brought into the Police Court to-day, Judge Wilson was absent at dinner, but the arrest was made known to him by telephone, and he directed, by telephone, that Mr. Smith be released on his own recognizance.

OTTAWA, Ontario, Dec. 31.—The weather continues very cold. The thermometer is 20° below zero here, and 35° below at Rockliffe, on the Upper Ottawa.

WELCOMING THE NEW YEAR

1880 USHERED IN WITH NOISY DEMONSTRATION.

THE MELODIES PLAYED ON TRINITY CHIMES HEARD; BY THRONGS OF PERSONS—SERVICES IN CHURCHES.

Broadway in the vicinity of Trinity Church presented an animated appearance at midnight last night. As early as 11 o'clock the pedestrians began to jostle one another for position on the sidewalks. Their numbers increased as the minutes wore on, and when the bells sounded the quarter before midnight 5,000 persons were watching and waiting for the hands on the big church dial to meet, and mark the hour of 12. A line of carriages containing jeweled ladies was ranged along the curbstones, and squads of boys with fife and drum took up their position on the outskirts of the throng. The programme prepared for Trinity's chimes by Mr. Albert Meislahn, Jr., included 14 pieces, and was begun at 11:30 by ringing the changes on eight bells. When the ponderous time-bell clanged out the midnight hour, the crowd burst into cheers, and then there was a pandemonium for full 15 minutes. The blowing of horns, the whistling of locomotives and the steam-tugs in the harbor, the ringing of ship's bells, and the reports of fire-arms, and high above all the unearthly shrieks of the calliope, all contributed to an uproar such as is only heard on New Year's Eve in the business portion of the City after sundown. Gradually the throng melted away, the sounds grew less and less, and Broadway resumed its slumber once more. The night gave promise of a splendid morrow. The moon had burst through the clouds, and was shining with a brilliancy suggestive of an electric light. The snow-storm, which commenced at 10 in the morning, and, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, gave way to a drizzling rain, had left three inches of slush in the streets, but this was rapidly freezing when the skies brightened at 8 o'clock in the evening. The temperature was rising, however, and the indications were that New Year's Day would usher in 24 hours of heat of warm weather.

There was an old-fashioned watch-night service in St. Paul's Methodist Church, at Fourth-avenue and Twenty-second-street. The interior of the edifice was beautifully lighted and decorated, and was crowded with people from long before 9:30 o'clock, when the opening anthem was sung, until Bishop W. L. Harris pronounced the benediction when the strokes of the midnight bell announced the close of the old year. Remarks were made by several members of the congregation, and addresses were delivered by the Rev. Dr. Tiffany, the Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Howard Crosby, the Rev. Dr. MacArthur, the Rev. Dr. Holme, the Rev. Dr. Philip Schaaf, and Bishop Harris. The closing address was delivered by the Rev. W. F. Taylor, of Liverpool, England, and was from the text, "Behold, the Bridegroom cometh, go ye forth and meet Him." It was an original and eloquent exposition of the true spirit of the story of the wise and the foolish virgins. The effect upon the hearers was great, and manifest. After Mr. Taylor's address, the congregation knelt while the consecration hymn was sung, and just at the close of the fifth line before the last, the midnight toll struck, and in silent prayer the worshipers ended the year 1879. When the last stroke of the gong had died away, the people arose, and were dismissed by a benediction pronounced by the venerable Bishop Harris.

In the Church of the Disciples, at Madison-avenue and Forty-fifth-street, there was a large congregation, and the services were begun at 9:45 o'clock, with a special service of song, consisting of anthems, and appropriate music for the occasion. The first address was delivered by the Rev. Dr. Salter, on "The Value of Time." The Rev. Dr. Bevan followed in an earnest appeal on the subject of "Salvation," taking for the basis of his remarks the reply of the Apostle to the jailer, when asked by him what he should do to be saved, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ with all thy heart, and thou shalt be saved." The closing address was made by the Rev. W. R. Davis, the new Pastor of the Church of the Disciples, and was addressed particularly to the congregation composing his charge. The hour, he said, was one fraught with great interest to him. He had been giving one ear to the words of the speakers who had preceded him, and to the other the voices of the past. One year ago he was laboring in another portion of God's kingdom, with no thought of the circumstances which had brought him among the people of the Church of the Disciples. He assumed the duties of Pastor of the church, he said, under a deep feeling of responsibility, and he was happy to be able to say that the people had stood by him nobly, and sustained him thus far even beyond his most sanguine expectations. He closed by urging the people to a faithful performance of all their duties in the future. Just as the bells were tolling the hour of 12 the "Covenanters Hymn" was sung, after which the congregation bowed for a moment in silent prayer. The Rev. Dr. Bevan then delivered a brief oral prayer, and the Rev. Dr. Davis gave the usual benediction. The Doxology was sung, and the congregation was dismissed with the benediction.

A NEW YEAR'S EVE FROLIC.

THE TWENTY-THIRD REGIMENT USHERING IN THE NEW YEAR IN BROOKLYN.

The Twenty-third Regiment celebrated New-Year's Eve, by giving a "sing" reception, at its armory, in Clermont-avenue, Brooklyn. The long gallery extending around three sides of the large drill-room was crowded with spectators, and accommodations were afforded on the borders of the ground floor for many more. The remainder of the main floor was kept clear for athletic games. The sport began at 8 o'clock with a dash of 50 yards, in five heats, in which there were 16 entries. The winners and their time in the first four heats were: R. M. Wiesss, Company B, 0:7; G. G. Neidlinger, Company B, 0:6½; W. H. Handy, Company K, 0:6¼, and D. E. Aldridge, of the same company, who had a walk-over. In the final heat, Neidlinger was the winner in 0:6¼. F. H. Wells, of Company B, won the one-mile walk in 8:21¼, S. G. Chapin taking the second prize in 8:36. Three members of the Brooklyn Athletic Club started in a bicycle race of three miles. They left the scratch very nicely, and made the circuit of the room about a dozen times, when J. W. Daniels fell down. T. Hood Muir, who was close behind him, fell over him, and R. A. Maxwell, in an endeavor to pass around his fallen competitors, fell on top of them. Although they were going rapidly, they escaped with some slight bruises; but Muir and Maxwell each lost a treadle of his machine. The latter won the race in 13:47. Light-weight tugs of war were next contested between teams of six, representing Companies B and E and K and F. The teams were pulled over a long slab on which cleats were nailed two feet apart. The time for each tug was limited to 10 minutes. Company E's team won by three inches, and Company F pulled the colors one foot over the line. R. V. Heisler and S. G. Chapin entered the two-mile walk. Butler took the lead and held it until near the end of the final lap, Chapin keeping about a yard in the rear. Then the latter spurted and crossed the line a winner in 19:41. Butler's time was 19:41½. Simpson Ford, of Company A, won a half-mile run in 2:14. The standing broad jump was performed under difficulties, as instead of hard earth and spiked shoes, a thick mattresses and slippers were used by the jumpers. There were nine entries, and T. C

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS.

SALES AT THE STOCK EXCHANGE—DEC. 31.

GOVERNMENT STOCKS—10:30 A. M.

U. S. 6s, R., '81		U. S. 4½s C., '91	
$11,000 ha	104½	$4,000	104½
1,000	104½	1,000	104½
2,000	104½	19,000 ha	104½
U. S. 4½s R., '91		4,000 ha	104½
$500	104½	20,000	104½

FIRST BOARD—10:30 A. M.

D. of C. 3.65s C.		Lake Shore		Ind., Cin. & Ind.	
3,000	96½	100	74½	100	31½
N. J. Cent. scrip		Illinois Central		Lake Erie & West	
3,000	108	100	90	100	17½
Chi. & N. W. s. f.		K. T. L. E. & W.		Louisv. & Nashv.	
3,000	118	100	14½	100	87½
2,000	119½	100	14½	Mich. & Chicago	
Mon. & E. 1st con.		1200	41½	100	27½
57,000	107	200	41	North. & Essex	
D. & H. Ca. '94.		1500	42½	140	ha.108
1,000	108	300	42½	Ohio & Miss.	
Den. & Rio G. 1st		2700	hd. 42	100	ha. 31½
1,000	95½	2400	42½	1000	31½
4,000	95	K. T. L. E. & W. pf.		200	31½
13,000 hold	94½	100	ha. 69	200	s5. 31½
K. P. Dell. 1st		Michigan Central		100	31½
1,000	92	400	ha4. 80½	100	s. 31½
R.&S., Ja.&S. conv.		200	80½	100	s. 31½
3,000	106	25	80½	100	hd. 31½
R. W. & O. 1st		100	80½	100	ha. 31½
new 3d consol.		100	80½	100	hd. 32
19,000 ha	87½	100	80½	400	s5. 32½
E. T. Tol. & D. 2d		Ia. Shore & M. S.		100	hd. 32½
1,000	70	100	hd. 90½	200	32½
2,000	67½	100	90½	200	32½
L. S. 2d consol. R.		200	90½	200	32½
5,000 ha	114½	700	90½	Mobile & Ohio	
2,000	114½	900	s5. 90½	100	ha. 30½
Lou. & N. conv.		100	90½	Pacific Mail	
4,000	114	100	s. 90½	100	14½
Metropolitan Tel.		100	90½	10	14½
10,000	94½	100	s5. 90½	400	14½
Mich. South. & N. I.		100	90½	100	14½
2,000	ha.108½	100	s. 90½	200	14
R. W. & O. 1st		100	ha. 90½	Metropolitan	
1,800	ha. 86½	N. Y. C. & Hud.		100	ha. 91
O. & M. 1st, Sh. D.		100	ha. 120	100	s5. 120
2,000	88½	Union Pacific		Nash. C. & St. L.	
L. & V. R. con. gu.		5	ha. 85	600	ha. 81
5,000 hold	95	400	s5. 85½	200	ha. 80
Con. Pac. Sub. S. Inc.		Chicago & N. W.		1400	80½
2,000	102½	500	ha. 39½	Northern Pacific	
St. L. & I. M. 1st		100	b5. 39½	100	ha. 32½
1,000	113½	500	39½	Northern Pac. pf.	
4,000	ha.114	1000	39½	100	ha. 56½
St. L. & S. 2d		100	39½	Ohio & Miss.	
2,000	s. 98½	600	39½	100	ha.s. 32½
M. K. & T. con. sec.		400	b5. 39	100	b5. 32½
5,000	65½	100	39½	100	32½
2,000	b5. 62½	300	39½	100	32½
Union Pac. 1st l. g.		50	39½	100	s. 32½
7,000	112½	Central of N. J.		100	s. 32½
South. Pacific 1st		100	ha. 73½	Pacific Mail	
2,000	103½	2700	73½	Phila. & Reading	
Texas Pac. inc. l. g.		400	73½	600	ha.c. 70½
3,000	9½	100	73½	300	70½
Pacific of Mo. 1st		500	73½	100	70½
1,000	ha.106	100	73½	St. L. I. M. & S. ss.	
Alb. & T. 1st m.		Chi., Mil. & St. P.		400	ha. 48
1,000	100	200	ha.c. 74½	100	b30. 48
Tol. & Wab. 2d		100	74½	Wab. St. L. & Pac.	
1,000	38½	400	74½	100	47½
4,000	38½	700	74½	100	48
T. & W. con. sinking		700	74½	100	48½
1,000	65½	C. M. & St. P. pf.		100	48½
C., C. & I. C. 1st		600	ha.c. 99½	100	48½
7,000	88½	100	99½	100	48½
Peoria & Pek. Union		100	99½	100	49½
1,000	ha.106	100	99½	St. L. I. M. & S. ss.	
Alb. & T. 2d m.		Chi., Mil. & St. P.		400	ha. 49
1,000	100	200	ha.c. 74½	100	b30. 49
Tol. & Wab. 2d		100	74½	Wab. St. L. & Pac.	
1,000	38½	400	74½	100	49
4,000	38½	700	74½	100	49½
T. & W. con. sinking		700	74½	100	49½
1,000	65½	C. M. & St. P. pf.		100	49½
C., C. & I. C. 1st		600	ha.c. 99½	100	49½
7,000	88½	100	99½	100	49½
Peoria & Pek. Union		100	99½	100	49½
1,000	ha.106	100	99½	Wab. St. L. & Pac.	
Alb. & T. 1st m.		Chi., Mil. & St. P.		250	ha.c. 64
1,000	100	200	ha.c. 74½	100	s. 64
Tol. & Wab. 2d		100	74½	100	s. 64
1,000	38½	400	74½	100	64½
4,000	38½	700	74½	100	64½
T. & W. con. sinking		700	74½	100	64½
1,000	65½	C. M. & St. P. pf.		100	s. 64½
C., C. & I. C. 1st		600	ha.c. 99½	100	s. 64½
7,000	88½	100	99½	100	64½
Peoria & Pek. Union		100	99½	100	64½
1,000	ha.106	100	99½	100	64½
Alb. & T. 2d m.		Del. Lack. & W.		150	49½
1,000	100	100	ha. 82½	400	s5. 49½
Tol. & Wab. 2d		300	82½	1000	49½
1,000	38½	200	82½	100	49½
4,000	38½	100	82½	200	49½
T. & W. con. sinking		100	82½	100	49
1,000	65½	Ban. & St. Jo.		200	49½
C., C. & I. C. 1st		200	82½	St. L. & San Fran. pf.	
7,000	88½	500	82½	100	74½
Peoria & Pek. Union		300	82½	100	74½
1,000	ha.106	100	82½	100	74½
Alb. & T. 2d m.		Del. Lack. & W.		100	ha. 74½
1,000	100	100	ha. 82½	100	74½
Tol. & Wab. 2d		300	82½	100	74½
1,000	38½	200	82½	100	74½
4,000	38½	100	82½	100	74½
T. & W. con. sinking		100	82½	100	74½
1,000	65½	Ban. & St. Jo.		100	74½
C., C. & I. C. 1st		200	82½	100	74½
7,000	88½	500	82½	100	74½
Peoria & Pek. Union		300	82½	100	74½
1,000	ha.106	100	82½	100	74½
Alb. & T. 2d m.		Chic. & Ohio.		100	74½
1,000	100	100	ha. 130	Wab. St. L. & Pac.	
Tol. & Wab. 2d		300	134½	100	ha.c. 41½
1,000	38½	300	ha. 134	400	41½
4,000	38½	500	134½	100	s. 41½
T. & W. con. sinking		Canada Southern.		200	41½
1,000	65½	200	ha. 69	100	41½
C., C. & I. C. 1st		Chic. & Ohio.		200	41½
7,000	88½	100	134½	300	41½
Peoria & Pek. Union		Chic. & O. 1st pf.		100	ha. 41½
1,000	ha.106	200	ha. 90½	250	ha.c. 64
Alb. & T. 2d m.		Chicago & Alton.		100	s. 64
1,000	100	100	ha. 134½	100	64½
Tol. & Wab. 2d		Han. & St. Jo.		300	64
1,000	38½	100	ha. 33½	100	64½
4,000	38½	100	33½	100	64½
T. & W. con. sinking		100	33½	100	s. 64½
1,000	65½	100	33½	100	s. 64½
C., C. & I. C. 1st		Wab. St. L. & Pac.		United States Ex.	
7,000	88½	100	ha. 63½	100	ha. 49

SECOND BOARD—1 P. M.

Den. & R. G. 1st		Atlantic & Pacific		Mo., Kan. & Tex.	
$10,000 hd	94½	200	ha. 42	100	ha.c 11½
5,000	94½	Lake Shore & M. S.		200	12½
5,000	95	400	ha.c. 100½	200	12½
32,000 hd	94½	100	s. 100½	N. J. Central	
Can. So. 1st g'd.		200	s5. 100	100	ha.c. 50
4,000	89½	Illinois Central.		St. L. I. M. & S. ss	
Harlem 1st Tr. C.		100	ha.c. 99½	500	ha.c. 49½
1,000 ha. 128½		100	99½	500	ha.c. 49½
Alb. & Susq. 1st.		5	99½	100	ha.c. 49½
1,000	ha.115	Union Pacific.		125	49½
C., C. & I. C. 1st.		100	ha. 84½	100	ha.c. 49½
1,000	89	100	ha. 84½	Wab. St. L. & Pac.	
Alton & T. H. inc.		100	85½	100	ha.c. 40½
1,000	97	Chicago & N. W.		100	ha.c. 41½
1,000	97	800	ha.c. 39½	100	ha. 41
O. & M. 1st, S. D.		100	ha.c. 39½	Chicago & Alton.	
2,000	ha. 89½	800	39½	100	ha. 134½
1,000	ha. 79	100	39½	Manhattan.	
To. & Wab. 2d		Chi. & N. W. pf.		100	ha. 54
2,000	38½	100	ha.c. 105½	Stats. C. & St. L.	
United States Ex.		Central of N. J.		400	ha. 80½
18	ha.c. 48½	500	ha.c. 30	400	s5. 81
Wells Fargo Ex.		100	ha.c. 80	Chi., Bur. & Q.	
100	ha.c. 80½	300	80½	100	ha.c. 133½
Standard Mi. con.		100	s5. 79½	200	133½
100	ha. 28	100	79½	Han. & St. Jo.	
100	ha. 28½	100	79½	100	ha.c. 33½
Boston Wat. Power.		Chi., Mil. & St. P.		100	33½
100	ha.c. 11½	100	79½	Chic. & Ohio.	
100	c. 11½	Chi. Mil. & St. P.		200	ha.c. 18
Climax Mining.		100	ha.c. 75½	Canada Southern.	
500	ha.c. 3½	200	75½	100	ha.c. 68½
100	s5. 3½	200	75½	Ind., Cin. & Ind.	
Carlisle consol.		C., M. & St. P. pf.		300	ha.c. 31½
10	ha. 5½	100	ha. 99½	100	ha.c. 31½
Pacific Mail.		Northern Pacific.		18	ha.c. 31½
200	ha.b5. 36½	100	ha.c. 32½	Max. & Chi. 2d pf.	
300	36½	W. St. L. & Pac.		100	ha.c. 4½
600	36½	100	ha.c. 42½	St. Paul & S. C.	
100	36½	400	42½	100	ha.c. 38½
1200	37½	100	42½	50	38½
2000	ha.b5. 37½	300	42½	100	38½
400	37½	500	ha.c. 84½	St. P. & S. C. pf.	
400	37½	100	84½	100	ha.c. 74½
N. Y. L. E. & W.		100	ha.c. 74½	Ohio & Miss.	
3020	ha.c. 42½	300	74½	100	29
1400	42½	300	ha. 83½	C. C. & I. C.	
100	b5. 43	900	82½	200	ha.c. 20½
100	42½	1000	83½	100	s. 20½
100	42½	100	ha. 83½	Michigan Central.	
Phila. & Reading.		100	83½	500	ha.c. 89½
600	ha.c. 71	Louisv. & Nashv.		200	89½
300	71½	100	ha. 87½	100	89½

GOVERNMENT STOCKS—1:30 P. M.

U. S. 6s R., '81		U. S. 4s R., 1907	
$20,000	104½	6,000	109½

FROM 2:30 TO 3 P. M.

N. Y. Elevated 1st.		Western Union.		Canada Southern.	
$1,000	112½	100	102½	Chic. Bur. & Q.	
R. R. & R. 1st.		100	102½	100	134½
40,000	53½	200	102½	100	134
20,000	53½	N. Y. L. E. & W.		100	134½
15,000	54½	100	42½	100	134½
Mich. C. 6s, 1909.		1000	42½	Fort Wayne.	
17,000	129½	500	42½	29	119
Den. & Rio G. 1st.		100	42½	Kansas & Texas.	
15,000	94½	500	42½	200	32½
2,000	94½	Central of N. J.		100	32½
N. Y. C. 1st con. s.		200	79½	100	32½
10,000	106	100	79½	Louisv. & Nashv.	
Wabash 7s, new.		300	79½	200	86½
10,000	91	100	79½	Phila. & Reading.	
Mo., Kan. & Tex. con.		100	79½	300	71½
8,000	70½	500	79½	200	71½
C. & O. 1st, sec. 6.		100	80½	300	71½
6,000	62½	Rock Island.		200	71½
1,000	62½	10	147	Lake Erie & W.	
Ohio & Miss. 2d.		St. Paul.		100	20½
5,000	32½	100	75½	100	20½
Chi. & Alton s. f.		800	75½	Manhattan.	
3,000	134½	St. Paul pf.		100	54½
1,000	106½	100	104½	Metropolitan.	
American Ex.		100	100½	300	b3.120½
100	57½	North-western.		N. Y. Elevated.	
Olimax Mining.		100	90½	100	120
50	3½	200	90½	Northern Pacific.	
Standard Min.		300	90½	100	32½
100	28	600	90½	100	32½
Maryland Coal.		100	90½	100	32½
100	25	68	90½	Boston Air L. pf.	
Del. & Hudson.		100	104½	100	b5. 56
100	74	St. L. & P.		St. Paul & S. C.	
Lake Shore.		100	49½	100	38½
600	105½	St. L. & K. C. pf.		St. L. & I. M. ss.	
100	105½	100	18½	100	49½
Pacific Mail.		Del. Lack. & W.		St. L. & S. F. pf.	
1700	37½	400	82½	100	49½
200	37½	500	s60. 82½	Han. & St. Jo.	
70	37½	500	82½	300	29½
600	37½	100	83½	Ohio & Miss.	
1100	37½	100	83½	200	32½
500	37½	100	83½	Atlantic & Pacific.	
1300	37½	100	83½	100	41½

MINING STOCK EXCHANGE SALES—DEC. 31.

SALES AFTER THE SECOND CALL.

Consol. Virginia.		Bechtel.		Lacrosse.	
100	4.10	100	b5. 1.55	500	s30. .49
25	4.05	Imperial.		1000	b5. .49
100	4.10	100	.54	500	b10. .49
100	.7	100	.52	500	b30. .51
Bullion.		500	.55	Independence.	
200	.56	Belle Isle.		100	.7
1000	.56	100	s3. 1.45	Leadville.	
1000	.56	100	1.45	100	s. 4.15
500	.57	Belle.		South Side.	
100	s. .57	250	b10. .9	100	b5. 2.10
400	.57	100	s. .9½	Bulwer.	
Mexican.		75	b5. .9	50	.9½
100	.1	California.		Belvidere.	
100	.97	10	s. 2.05	100	.1
100	.1	200	s4. 4.05	200	.1
Hukill.		65	s. 4.05	Great Eastern.	
100	.4.15	125	s. .6	500	b30. .41
100	b10. 4.20	Keystone.		American Flag.	
Green Mountain.		1000	b30. .40	1000	b30. .56
100	2.10	100	b3. .39	Greenville.	
100	s2. 2.10	200	.39	1000	.49
Shawmut.		300	s5. .41	200	.47
50	1.35	200	b5. .41	200	b30. .49
50	1.35	100	b30. 2.35		

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 31—P. M.

The stock speculation showed a large falling off in the volume of business, and presented few features of interest. The market was strong, however, and prices advanced in almost the entire list. The improvement ranged from ¼ to 2½ ⅌ cent. In the active stocks, the coal shares, North-west, St. Paul, Erie, Lake Shore, Pacific Mail, Iron Mountain, and Western Union leading the advance. Investment shares were strong, and Chicago, Burlington and Quincy advanced nearly 8 ⅌ cent. Rock Island was quoted ex dividend. At the close the highest prices of the day were generally current.

The transactions aggregated 165,888 shares, including 25,700 Erie, 15,900 Kansas and Texas, 13,500 Delaware, Lackawanna and Western, 12,900 Wabash, St. Louis and Pacific, 12,200 Pacific Mail, 11,600 Northwestern, 11,400 Lake Shore, 11,200 New-Jersey Central, 10,900 St. Paul, 8,200 Iron Mountain, 8,600 Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis, 4,700 Reading, 3,400 Michigan Central, 2,100 Canada Southern, 1,600 Sutro Tunnel, 1,500 Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, 1,400 Western Union, 1,200 St. Louis and San Francisco, 1,200 Hannibal and St. Joseph, 1,100 Ohio and Mississippi, 1,000 C., C. and I. C., and 1,000 Indianapolis, Cincinnati and Lafayette.

North-western common fell off to 89½, and rose to 90⅞; the preferred advanced from 105 to 106¼; St. Paul common fell off to 74, and advanced to 75½; the preferred rose 1½ ⅌ cent, to 100½; Lake Shore advanced from 99¼ to 100⅜; Michigan Central from 89¾ to 90⅜; Erie from 41½ to 43, and preferred from 68¾ to 69; Delaware, Lackawanna and Western advanced 1⅝ ⅌ cent, to 85⅞; New-Jersey Central fell off from 79⅝ to 79¼, and rose to 80¾; Delaware and Hudson rose ¾ to 74¼, and Reading 1⅞ to 71⅞; C. C. and I. C. rose from 20½ to 20⅞, and closed at 20½; Louisville and Nashville fell off from 87⅝ to 86½; Manhattan Elevated rose from 53½ to 54½; Kansas and Texas rose from 31½ to 32, fell off to 31¼, and rose to 32⅜; Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis sold at 80½@81, and Ohio and Mississippi at 28⅝@29; St. Paul and Sioux City common fell off from 37¼ to 36½, and closed at 36⅞; the preferred rose from 74¼ to 74⅞; St. Louis and San Francisco common fell off from 42 to 40½, and preferred from 49½ to 49½, with closing sales at 41 and 49½ respectively; Iron Mountain fell off from 48 to 47⅞, rose to 49½, and closed at 49; Union Pacific advanced from 84½ to 85⅛, and closed at 85⅛; Pacific Mail fell off from 35⅞ to 35½, and rose to 37⅝; Western Union advanced from 101½ to 102⅜, and closed at 102⅜; Atlantic and Pacific fell off from 42½ to 42, and rose to 43. Among the investment shares, Chicago, Burlington and Quincy rose from 126¾ to 134½; New-York Elevated sold at 125; Metropolitan fell off to 120, and New-York Central to 129, but the former recovered to 120½ at the close.

The Money market was less stringent than on yesterday, and Stock Exchange borrowers supplied their requirements at 7 ⅌ cent, to 1-32 of 1 ⅌ cent ⅌ diem and interest. Discounts are unchanged. The following were the rates of domestic exchange on New-York at the undermentioned cities to-day: Savannah, buying ⅛ off, selling ⅛ off; Charleston, easier, free offerings, ¼@5-16, ⅛ to par; St. Louis, 1-10 discount; Chicago, 50@60 discount; and Boston, 15 discount.

The Treasury to-day paid out $1,557,736 on account of January interest, making the total amount thus far disbursed $5,000,000.

The foreign advices reported an active market at London for British Consols, which closed strong at 97½@97⅝ for money and 97⅝ for the account. United States Government bonds were strong and ¼@⅜ ⅌ cent higher, at 106⅜ for new 4s, 109⅜ for 4½s, and 106½ for 5s. American railway securities were generally quiet. Erie common declined from 44⅝ to 43⅝; do. preferred was quoted at 72@73; do. consolidated Seconds declined ½ ⅌ cent, to 90; Pennsylvania fell from 52½ to 52¼; Atlantic and Great Western Firsts rose from 59¾ to 60¼; do. Seconds, after declining ¼ ⅌ cent, to 27½, advanced to 27¾. This was selling day at the London Stock Exchange. India Council bills were allotted to-day at an average of 1.164 ⅌ rupee. The sum of £15,000 went into the Bank of England on balance to-day. At Paris, Rentes declined to 81f. 40c.

The Sterling Exchange market was quiet, and rates were unchanged.

Government bonds opened strong, but toward the close the new 4 ⅌ cents declined ⅛@¼. The transactions were larger than on yesterday, considerable amounts having been taken for investment. In railroad mortgages prices generally were higher. The greatest advance was in Alton and Terre Haute Incomes, which sold at 87@90. Boston, Hartford and Erie Firsts rose from 53¾ to 54¾; Erie consolidated Seconds from 86⅝ to 87¾; Rome, Watertown and Ogdensburg Firsts from 58½ to 60; New-Jersey Central consolidated Firsts from 105¾ to 106; Iron Mountain Second Incomes from 65 to 67; Chicago and North-west Sinking Funds from 112 to 112½; do. consolidated, gold coupons, from 114 to 114½; Kansas and Texas Seconds from 46½ to 47, and Chesapeake and Ohio Firsts, Series B, from 62½ to 63¾. The last named reacted to 62¾ at the close. Denver and Rio Grande Firsts fell off from 95¾ to 94, and recovered to 94¾. State bonds were dull: District of Columbia 3.65s fell off a fraction, selling at 56¾.

The following table shows the highest and lowest prices for railway and miscellaneous shares on the Stock Exchange for 1879. The fluctuations cover a wide range, the year having been remarkable for great buoyancy and excitement growing out of the general improvement in business and the large crops:

	Highest.	Lowest.
Adams Express	110	99
American Express	65	45
Albany and Susquehanna	103	79½
Alton and Terre Haute	24½	5
Alton and Terre Haute preferred	46	19½
Atlantic and Pacific Telegraph	49½	29
American District Telegraph	76	39
Boston Water Power	14	10
Boston Air Line, pref.	61	56
B., C. R. and Northern	75	23½
Canton Land	70	24½
Canada Southern	76½	46
Burlington Mining	25	17
Central Arizona Mining	25½	11
C., C., C. and I. C.	24½	11
Chesapeake and Ohio	8½	3½
Chesapeake and Ohio 1st preferred	37	8½
Chesapeake and Ohio 2d preferred	29	6½
C., C. and I. C.	20½	8
Chicago, Burlington and Quincy	135	111½
Chicago and Alton	100½	75
Chicago and Alton preferred	118	105½
Chicago, St. Paul and Minneapolis	39	17½
Chicago and North-west	94½	62½
Chicago and North-west preferred	108	76¾
Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul	82½	34½
Chicago, St. Louis and St. Paul	103½	34½
Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific	150	118
Cleveland and Pittsburg	107	84½
Consolidation Coal	41	20
Colorado Coal and Iron	94	30
Delaware and Hudson	88½	38
Excelsior Mining	39	23½
Frankfort and Kokomo	33	23
Hannibal and St. Joseph	41½	12½
Hannibal and St. Joseph pref.	70½	38
Harlem	165	140½
Homestake Mining	42½	24½
Houston and Texas	60½	30
Illinois Central	100½	79½
Indianapolis, Cincinnati and Lafayette	17	7
Kansas Pacific	32	9½
Keokuk and Des Moines	23½	7
Keokuk and Des Moines pref.	45	21½
Lafayette, Bloomington and Muncie	24½	21
Lake Shore	106	67
Lake Erie and Western	30	17
Le Plate Mining	5	2
Louisville and Nashville	94½	85
Little Pittsburg Mining	24½	8
Lead City Mining	50	20
Manhattan Railroad	73½	33
Mariposa Mining	8	4½
Michigan Central	90	71
Marietta and Cincinnati 1st pref.	18½	8
Marietta and Cincinnati 2d pref.	12½	2½
Metropolitan Railroad	126½	109½
Michigan Central	92	78½
Mobile and Ohio	32½	8
Missouri, Kansas and Texas	35½	5½
Morris and Essex	104½	73½
Manhattan Elevated	54½	30
Nash. Chat. and St. Louis	83	35½
New Central Coal	45	20
New-Jersey Central	80½	13½
New-York Central	129	92½
New-York and New-Haven	171	104
New-York Elevated	200	135
New-York Elevated, ex privilege	139½	117
New-York, Lake Erie and Western	48½	27½
New-York, Lake Erie and Western new	17½	7½
Northern Pacific	40½	16
Northern Pacific pref.	66	41½
Ohio and Mississippi	35	11
Ohio and Mississippi pref.	64½	19
Ontario Mining	43	28½
Pacific Mail	38½	19½
Pacific Express	105	116
Pennsylvania	196	142
Philadelphia and Reading	72	29
Pittsburg, Fort Wayne and Chicago	114	101½
Quicksilver	26	9
Quicksilver pref.	66½	33
Rome, Watertown and Ogdensburg	92	70
Rensselaer and Saratoga	110	97
Sierra Nevada Mining	35	21
Sutro Tunnel	9½	2½
St. Louis and San Francisco	51	9
St. Louis and San Francisco pref.	60½	34
St. Louis and San Francisco 1st pref.	78½	58
St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern	56	14
St. Paul and Sioux City	43½	36
St. Paul and Sioux City pref.	78½	49½
Union Pacific	98	57½
Wabash, St. Louis and Pacific	30	29
Wabash, St. Louis and Pacific pref.	50	42
Wells-Fargo Express	100	93½
Western Union Telegraph	118	92½
United States Express	60½	41½
Wabash, (old)	60½	41½
St. Louis, Kansas City and N. (old)	47½	7½
St. Louis, Kansas C. and N. pref. (old)	72½	26½

UNITED STATES TREASURY,
NEW-YORK, DEC. 31, 1879.

	Tuesday.	Wednesday.
Receipts	$483,543 87	
Payments	2,130,035 62	
Balance, coin	105,049,424 93	
Balance, note	6,801,788 60	

CLOSING QUOTATIONS—DEC. 31.

	Tuesday.	Wednesday.
United States 4s, 1907, coupon	104	104
United States 4½s, 1891, coupon	106½	106½
United States 5s, 1881, coupon	103½	108½
Bills on London	$4 80½@$4 81	$4 80½@$4 81
New-York Central	128½	129
Erie	43½	43½
Rock Island	150	150
New-York, New-Haven and Hartford	167	169
United Railroads of New-Jersey	140½	140½
Chicago, Burlington and Quincy	134½	134½
Panama	160	160
Fort Wayne	119½	119½
Pittsburg	106	106
Illinois Central	99	99½
Chicago and Alton	100	100
Chicago and Alton pref.	115	115
Erie pref.	61½	62½
Lake Shore	99½	100
Canada Southern	66½	66½
Pacific Mail	36½	36½
North-western pref.	105	106½
Milwaukee and St. Paul	74½	75½
Milwaukee and St. Paul pref.	99	100½
Delaware, Lackawanna and Western	85½	85½
New-Jersey Central	79½	80½

The Directors of the Long Island Bank have declared a dividend of Three ⅌ cent, free of tax, payable on and after Jan. 2.

The coupons from the preferred first mortgage bonds of the Indiana, Bloomington and Western Railway Company, due Jan. 1, 1880, will be paid at the Corbin Banking Company, No. 115 Broadway.

Mr. W. S. Webb has been admitted a partner in the firm of Worden & Co., No. 48 Wall-street.

Messrs. Winslow, Lanier & Co., of Nassau and Cedar streets, will pay, on and after Jan. 2, the coupons of many railroad, city, and other bonds, the names of which will be found in our advertising columns.

The thirteenth annual statement of the United States Life Insurance Company, which appears in our columns to-day, exhibits very gratifying results, and shows that the company is in a prosperous condition. Mr. James Boall is its President; C. P. Fralnich, Secretary; T. H. Brosnan, Superintendent; and among the Directors are Charles E. Bill, Isaac N. Phelps, H. K. Thurber, John A. Livingston, Oliver P. Buell, Henry L. Clapp, and Henry C. Hurlbert.

THE CALIFORNIA MINING STOCKS.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Dec. 31.—The following were the closing official prices of mining stocks to-day:

Alpha	9½	Leeds	½
Alta	2½	Leopard	5½
Argenta	1½	Lady Washington	⅞
Belcher	5½	Mexican	17
Best & Belcher	10½	Martin White	½
Bullion	2½	Mono	4½
Bodie	8½	Mammoth	1½
Belle Isle	1½	Mt Clinton	13½
Bechtel	1½	Manhattan	1½
Boston Consolidated	1½	Northern Belle	6½
Belvidere	½	North Bonanza	9-16
California	3½	Noonday	1½
Chollar	5½	Orphir	18
Consolidated Virginia	4	Overman	5½
Crown Point	2½	Potosi	9
Consolidated Pacific	4½	Raymond & Ely	7
Caledonia	1½	Savage	5½
Caledonia, R. H.	5	Sierra Nevada	17½
Dudley	½	South Bulwer	19-32
Eureka Consolidated	16½	South Noonday	1½
Exchequer	24½

THE REAL ESTATE MARKET.

The following business was transacted at the Exchange yesterday, Wednesday, Dec. 31:

John T. Bond, Receiver, sale, A. H. Alker, Esq., Referee, sold the six-story brick building with lot 25.6 by 74.8, No. 127 Spring-st., south side, 106 feet east of Greenwich-st., for $16,325, to John and Louisa Sitzer.

Richard V. Harnett, Receiver, sale, E. D. Van Voorhis, Esq., Referee, sold a plot of land 194.8 by 175 by 194 by 98.6, on Bergen-st., north side, 300 feet eastern Washington-st., for $2,000, to New York Security Fire Insurance Company, plaintiff.

The remaining sales were disposed of as follows: Sale by Horatio Henriques of the buildings with lots, Nos. 816 and 818 6th-st., west of Lewis-st., on Jan. 7, and sale by Richard V. Harnett of lots on Willis-av. and 144th-st., also on.

RECORDED REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS.

NEW-YORK.

Wednesday, Dec. 31.

Greenwich-st., No. 244, Carsten P. Offerman and wife to J. Brummel and Sons, Jr., Agents, $16,000
Delancey-st., No. 49, 25x100; Margaretha Schroeder to Sophia Weiss. 22,000
Madison-st., s. e. corner of 106th-st., 45x100.11; D. Z. Wilcox, Referee, to G. M. Miller, Guardian, &c. 5,000
Commerce-st., s. s., 146 feet W. 115 feet 11 in., 62x 50x irregular; B. F. Knoebler to Smith Ely, Jr. 5,900
8th-av., w. s., 50 ft. s. of 132d-st., 25x70; A. Jaksen, Referee, to Pauline A. Morgan. 8,000
8th-av., s. e. corner of 140th-st., 150x99.11; D. Z. Wilcox, Referee, to G. M. Miller and another, Guardian, &c. 19,000
9th-av., w. s., 20 ft. n. of 126th-st., 20.11x75; George J. Hamilton and wife to Napoleon J. Haines. 22,000
4th-st., s. s., corner of 25th-st., 100x100.5; James P. Mitchell and wife to William F. Pat-sont and another. 8,500
Washington-st., s. s. of 3d-st., 18.4x102.5; Sarah E. Huntington and husband to Hosea Manser. 4,500
Washington-st., s. s., 251.8 ft. s. of 3d-st., 18.4x102.5; Sarah E. Huntington and husband to Jemiah Manser. 4,500
103d-st., s. s., 200 ft. w. of 9th-av., 23x101.11; Thomas J. Reilly to Ann E. Mitchell. 2,500
Same property; John O. Schlosinger and husband to Oliver J. Munsell. 1,550
Same property; Oliver J. Munsell and wife to Thomas J. Reilly. 2,500
74th-st., s. s., 100 ft. e. of 10th-av., 12x102.2, and, also, s. s. 75th-st., 100 ft. e. of 10th-av., 50x102.2; Amelie R. Wilbaux and others, Executors, &c., to Wm. Emmons. 12,888
61st-st., s. s., 125 ft. w. of 1st-av., 20x100.5; Mary Schunk and husband to Charlotte Marks. 12,500
45th-st., n. s., 100 ft. e. of 6th-av; 20x100.5; Same to Same. 15,000
97th-st., s. s., 375 ft. e. of 6th-av., 25.8x98.9; Amos Tuck to Ellen Tuck French. nom.
93d-st., s. s., 160 ft. e. 3d-av., 20x100.8½; J. L. Sutherland, Referee, to the German Savings Bank. 4,000
124th-st., s. s., 200 ft. e. of 5th-av., 100x99.11; Henry Bagrich and wife to John M. Finnerty. 10,100
60th-st., s. s., 350 ft. w. of 2d-av., 25x99; W. L. Findley, Referee, to the New-York Life Insurance Company. 10,750
60th-st., s. s., 425 ft. e. of 2d-av., 25x98; R. G. Stoeng, Referee, to the New-York Life Insurance Company. nom.
107th-st., s. s., 100 ft. e. of 2d-av., 16x100.11; William Arntze and wife to C. Lattigan. nom.
73d-st., n. s., 175 ft. w. of 2d-av., 70x102.2; J. Lithgow, Referee, to Louis Schoolher. 42,000
145d-st., n. s., 275 ft. w. of Boulevard, 100x99.11; William R. Martin and wife to William H. Jenkins. 4,100
62d-st., s. s., 100 ft. w. of 2d-av., 25x98.9; Michael Gallagher to John H. Brewster. nom.
140th-st., s. s., 100 ft. e. of 8th-av., 25x99.11; 64th-st., 54.6x201.5x250; Jacob Ruppert and wife to the Metropolitan Building Company, (Limited). 118,800
11th-st., s. s., 47.6 ft. e. of 4th-av., 18.12x64.10; Louisa J. Van Buskirk to Sarah W. Wilson. 8,500
63d-st., s. s., 116.7 ft. e. of 10th-av., 16.7x100.5; Charles F. Dallies to Christopher H. Keeg. 10,000
63d-st., s. s., 100 ft. e. of 10th-av., 16.7x100.5; Same to Same. 10,000
Attorney-st., s. s., 50 ft. n. of Broome-st., 20x50; Joseph Kohler, Assignee, &c., to Gerson Kriegel. nom.
William-st., s. s., 40 ft. w. of 144th-st., 10x100; Jeremiah T. Duryea and husband to John Collins. 3,000
Greene-st., s. s., Lot No. 12, 25x100; Margaret G. Moore and another to Richard H. Bowne. 20,000
54th-st., s. s., 148 ft. w. of 1st-av., 22x98.9; S. W. Holcomb, Referee, to the Germania Life Insurance Company. 9,000
84th-st., s. s., 125 ft. w. of 1st-av., 25x98.9; Same to Same. 9,000
84th-st., s. s., 70 ft. e. of 2d-av., 20x100.5; G. G. Higgins, Referee, to F. Walter Webb. 2,925
61st-st., s. s., 275 ft. e. of Madison-av., 18x100.5; W. A. Boyd, Referee, to Henry E. Stearns. 16,000
144th-st., s. s., 358.11 ft. e. of 3d-av., 50x100; Martin Schmitz and wife to Charles Ritter. 13,000
Union-sq., east side, corner of 17th-st., 21.8x 118.8x29x51x203; Charles Ritter to Martin Schmitz. 13,000
81st-st., s. s., 155 ft. w. of 1st-av., 30x100.5; Mary Schunk and husband to Christopher Marks. 12,500
Henry-st., s. s., Lot No. 82, 24x91.2; J. Koch, Referee, to George Graham. 8,200
41st-st., s. s., 100 ft. w. of 10th-av., 25x98.9; N. F. Moore, Referee, to G. M. Miller. 8,040
8th-st., s. s., 434 ft. e. of Avenue B, 31.6x97.5; Peter Herrmann and wife to Jacob Miller. 7,500
8th-av., s. s., 66.8 ft. n. of 130th-st., 16.6x75; Same to Same, subject to a mortgage for $6,000. 12,000
89th-st., n. s., 350 ft. e. of 10th-av., 25x98.9; Ida A. Carter, Executrix, &c., and others to Mary H. Gordon. 7,750
72d-st., n. s., 225 ft. w. of 3d-av., 50x102.2; Isaac Maeder and wife to Margaret Crawford. 13,625
138th-st., s. s., 550 ft. e. of Willis-av., to s. e. 139th-st., 50x200; John McCarty and wife and others to Charles H. Ackerman, 9-8 interest. 2,000
Same property; Mary F. Murphy and others to Charles H. Ackerman. 700
70th-st., n. s., 425 ft. w. of 2d-av., w. of tracks of the New-York Central and Hudson River Railroad Company, across 129th-st. to Hudson River exterior bulkhead line; Jacob Halstead and others to William H. Vanderbilt. 182,396
Same property; Cornelius B. Little and others to William H. Vanderbilt. nom.
12th-st., s. s., from 67th to 68th st., along 67th-st. to the Hudson River exterior line and Hudson River Railroad Company, irregular; also, w. s. 12th-av. to exterior bulkhead line of Hudson River, from 67th to 68th st; also, s. s. 12th-st. to exterior bulkhead line of Hudson River, from 68th to 69th st; and also, s. s. corner of 12th-st. and 69th-st., seven lots; Jacob Halstead and wife to William H. Vanderbilt, ⅞ interest. 77,561
Same property; Martha A. McCullough and others to William H. Vanderbilt, ⅞ interest. 77,590
69th-st., s. s., 100 ft. e. of 12th-av., 100.5x irregular; Robert Mealey and wife to William H. Vanderbilt. 8,206
53d-st., s. s., 250 ft. w. of 2d-av., 25x98.9; also, 53d-st., s. s., 275 ft. w. of 2d-av., 25x98.9; also, 53.11½x irregular; also, s. s. 52d-st., 190 ft. w. of 2d-av., 40x98.9, and, also, w. s. 2d-av., 74.9½ ft. n. of 52d-st., 24.8x72; Jacob Newman and others to Minnie Rinaldo. 100
5th-av., s. e. corner of 114th-st., 25.8x102x 120x irregular; James K. Martin to William A. Wheeler. 15,000
Morris-avenue, s. w. corner of 149th-st., 388.11 x276 x. Walton-av. x irregular; and, also, 2 parcels in 23d Ward; J. L. Haigh and another to John B. Foster. trust.
136th-st., s. s., 350 ft. e. of Willis-av. to e. 139th-st., 50x200; J. C. McCarthy, guardian, &c., to Charles H. Ackerman. 1,000
120th-st., s. s., 100 ft. e. of 2d-av., 20x99.11; A. H. Alker, Referee, to the New-York Bowery Fire Insurance Company. 5,000

MORTGAGES RECORDED.

Appleton, F. H., to the United States Trust Company; s. s. 59th-st., w. of 9th-av., 2 mortgages, 3 years, interest. $17,000
Bough, Mary, to H. Day; s. s. 125th-st., w. of Village, 3 years. 1,000
Beeves, J. H., to Margaret G. Moore and another; No. 12 Greene-st., 3 years. 12,000
Cherer, Israel, and wife to Max Danziger; s. s. 78d-st., 4 of 2d-av., 2 mortgages, 3 months. 1,500
Crawford, Mary, and another to I. Manger; s. s. 72d-st., w. of 3d-av., 1 year. 17,132
Cullen, J., and wife to Mary A. Reese; s. s. Willis-av., n. of 144th-st., 3 years. 1,500
Damm, J., and wife to H. J. Andres; w. s. Second-st., Lot No. 23, 3 years. 600
Dodge, S. H., and wife to the General Synod of the Church in America; s. s. 6th-av., n. of 30th-st., 1 year. 4,000
Dunn, J., and wife to Fannie Mayer; s. s. Ridge-st., 3 years. 7,800
Goldberg, J., and wife to A. Wahl; No. 164 Lewis-st., 3 years. 2,500
Howell, Isabella, and another to Sarah M. Sondheim; s. s. 48-st., s. of Broadway, 3 years. 2,000
Hunt, Magdalene, and others to Hebrew Mutual Benefit Society in New-York; s. s. 21-st., w. of 8th-av., 1 mortgage, 3 years, total. 6,000
Kelly, C. G., and wife to H. Koehlinger; s. s. 53d-st., n. of 10th-av., 2 mortgages, 3 years, total. 1,500
Kroehler, Wilhelmina, and husband to E. Sauer; s. s. 124th-st., w. of Avenue B, 3 years. 1,200
McCloskey, Cardinal John, to E. H. Cookman and others, Trustees; s. s. 50th-st., w. of 5th-av., 3 years. 20,000
Mallory, George S., and others to the United States Trust Company; No. 47 Lafayette-place, 3½ years. 5,000
Murray, Joseph, and wife to William H. Isaacs; s. s. 111th-st., w. of 3d-av., 3 years. 4,000
Oldmann, C. F., and wife to John Brommer, Executor, &c.; No. 14 Commerce-st., 2 years. 10,000
Oppenheimer, Isaac, and others to the New-York Life Insurance Company; s. w. corner of 4th-av. and 55th-st., 1 year. 20,000
Parsons, William C., and others to the New-York Life Insurance Company; s. w. corner of 4th-av. and 55th-st., 1 year. 20,000
Parsons, William C., and others to J. L. Mitchell; all same property, 6 months. 5,000
Phillips, August, to Bernelle Pempe and others; s. s. 7th-st., n. of 2d-st., 4 years. 4,000
Pinkney, J. W., to E. Unger; s. s. 134th-st., n. of 3d-av., 1 year. 7,000
Reilly, Thomas J., to O. J. Munsell; n. s. 103d-st., w. of 9th-av., 3 years. 2,500
Rogers, Elizabeth, to Lydia R. Meeker; w. s. 9th-st., n. of 20th-st. Ann-st., 3 years. 2,000
Sargent, J., and wife to the Equitable Life Assurance Society; s. w. corner of 1st-av. and 59th-st., 3 years. 45,000
Schlosser, Joseph, to Mutual Lumber and others; s. w. corner of 1st-av. and 77th-st., 4 years. 7,000
Smith, H. G., H. Thompson; s. s. of Grand-st., n. of No. 428, 3 years. 2,000
Stearns, E. S., and wife to J. S. Stearns, Trustee, for E. S. Stearns; s. s. of Madison-av., 3 years. 12,000
Taylor, Valentine, and husband to the Farmers' Life and Trust Company; No. 81 West 11th-st., 3½ years. 9,000
Thomas, Amelia R., and husband to the Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society; s. s. 5th-av., 3 mortgages, 3 years, total. 13,600
Thomas, Amelia R., and husband to Samuel Thompson; same property, 3 years. 5,000
Tilney, L., and wife to the Mutual Life Insurance Company; s. w. corner of 8th and Bleecker-sts., 1 year. 8,000
Wardell, William A., to J. B. Martin; w. s. 8th-av., n. of 112th-st., 3 years. 11,000

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGES.

Asmith, J. H., and another to C. S. Westcott, 3 years. nom.
Bough, Mary, to H. Day; s. s. 125th-st., w. of Village, 3 years. nom.
Beeves, J. H., to Margaret G. Moore and another; No. 12 Greene-st., 3 years. nom.
Cherer, Israel, and wife to Max Danziger; s. s. 78d-st., 4 of 2d-av., 2 mortgages, 3 months. nom.
Crawford, Mary, and another to I. Manger; s. s. 72d-st., w. of 3d-av., 1 year. nom.
Cullen, J., and wife to Mary A. Reese; s. s. Willis-av., n. of 144th-st., 3 years. nom.
Damm, J., and wife to H. J. Andres; w. s. Second-st., Lot No. 23, 3 years. nom.
Dodge, S. H., and wife to the General Synod of the Church in America; s. s. 6th-av., n. of 30th-st., 1 year. nom.
Dunn, J., and wife to Fannie Mayer; s. s. Ridge-st., 3 years. nom.
Goldberg, J., and wife to A. Wahl; No. 164 Lewis-st., 3 years. nom.
Howell, Isabella, and another to Sarah M. Sondheim; s. s. 48-st., s. of Broadway, 3 years. nom.
Hunt, Magdalene, and others to Hebrew Mutual Benefit Society in New-York; s. s. 21-st., w. of 8th-av., 1 mortgage, 3 years, total. nom.
Kelly, C. G., and wife to H. Koehlinger; s. s. 53d-st., n. of 10th-av., 2 mortgages, 3 years, total. nom.
Kroehler, Wilhelmina, and husband to E. Sauer; s. s. 124th-st., w. of Avenue B, 3 years. nom.
McCloskey, Cardinal John, to E. H. Cookman and others, Trustees; s. s. 50th-st., w. of 5th-av., 3 years. nom.
Mallory, George S., and others to the United States Trust Company; No. 47 Lafayette-place, 3½ years. nom.
Murray, Joseph, and wife to William H. Isaacs; s. s. 111th-st., w. of 3d-av., 3 years. nom.
Oldmann, C. F., and wife to John Brommer, Executor, &c.; No. 14 Commerce-st., 2 years. nom.
Oppenheimer, Isaac, and others to the New-York Life Insurance Company; No. 40 East 55th-st., 1 year. nom.
Parsons, William C., and others to the New-York Life Insurance Company; s. w. corner of 4th-av. and 55th-st., 1 year. nom.
Parsons, William C., and others to J. L. Mitchell; all same property, 6 months. nom.
Phillips, August, to Bernelle Pempe and others; s. s. 7th-st., n. of 2d-st., 4 years. nom.
Pinkney, J. W., to E. Unger; s. s. 134th-st., n. of 3d-av., 1 year. nom.
Reilly, Thomas J., to O. J. Munsell; n. s. 103d-st., w. of 9th-av., 3 years. nom.
Rogers, Elizabeth, to Lydia R. Meeker; w. s. 9th-st., n. of 20th-st. Ann-st., 3 years. nom.
Sargent, J., and wife to the Equitable Life Assurance Society; s. w. corner of 1st-av. and 59th-st., 3 years. nom.
Schlosser, Joseph, to Mutual Lumber and others; s. w. corner of 1st-av. and 77th-st., 4 years. nom.
Smith, H. G., H. Thompson; s. s. of Grand-st., n. of No. 428, 3 years. nom.
Stearns, E. S., and wife to J. S. Stearns, Trustee, for E. S. Stearns; s. s. of Madison-av., 3 years. nom.
Taylor, Valentine, and husband to the Farmers' Life and Trust Company; No. 81 West 11th-st., 3½ years. nom.
Thomas, Amelia R., and husband to the Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society; s. s. 5th-av., 3 mortgages, 3 years, total. nom.
Thomas, Amelia R., and husband to Samuel Thompson; same property, 3 years. nom.
Tilney, L., and wife to the Mutual Life Insurance Company; s. w. corner of 8th and Bleecker-sts., 1 year. nom.
Wardell, William A., to J. B. Martin; w. s. 8th-av., n. of 112th-st., 3 years. nom.

SATISFACTIONS OF MORTGAGES.

Bough, Mary, to H. Day; s. s. 125th-st., w. of Village, 3 years. 1,000
Beeves, J. H., to Margaret G. Moore and another; No. 12 Greene-st., 3 years. 12,000
Cullen, J., and wife to Mary A. Reese; s. s. Willis-av., n. of 144th-st., 3 years. 1,500
Damm, J., and wife to H. J. Andres; w. s. Second-st., Lot No. 23, 3 years. 600
Dunn, J., and wife to Fannie Mayer; s. s. Ridge-st., 3 years. 7,800
Goldberg, J., and wife to A. Wahl; No. 164 Lewis-st., 3 years. 2,500
Howell, Isabella, and another to Sarah M. Sondheim; s. s. 48-st., s. of Broadway, 3 years. 2,000
Hunt, Magdalene, and others to Hebrew Mutual Benefit Society in New-York; s. s. 21-st., w. of 8th-av., 1 mortgage, 3 years, total. 6,000
Kelly, C. G., and wife to H. Koehlinger; s. s. 53d-st., n. of 10th-av., 2 mortgages, 3 years, total. 1,500
Kroehler, Wilhelmina, and husband to E. Sauer; s. s. 124th-st., w. of Avenue B, 3 years. 1,200
McCloskey, Cardinal John, to E. H. Cookman and others, Trustees; s. s. 50th-st., w. of 5th-av., 3 years. 20,000
Mallory, George S., and others to the United States Trust Company; No. 47 Lafayette-place, 3½ years. 5,000
Murray, Joseph, and wife to William H. Isaacs; s. s. 111th-st., w. of 3d-av., 3 years. 4,000
Oldmann, C. F., and wife to John Brommer, Executor, &c.; No. 14 Commerce-st., 2 years. 10,000
Oppenheimer, Isaac, and others to the New-York Life Insurance Company; No. 40 East 55th-st., 1 year. 20,000
Parsons, William C., and others to the New-York Life Insurance Company; s. w. corner of 4th-av. and 55th-st., 1 year. 20,000
Parsons, William C., and others to J. L. Mitchell; all same property, 6 months. 5,000
Phillips, August, to Bernelle Pempe and others; s. s. 7th-st., n. of 2d-st., 4 years. 4,000
Pinkney, J. W., to E. Unger; s. s. 134th-st., n. of 3d-av., 1 year. 7,000
Reilly, Thomas J., to O. J. Munsell; n. s. 103d-st., w. of 9th-av., 3 years. 2,500
Rogers, Elizabeth, to Lydia R. Meeker; w. s. 9th-st., n. of 20th-st. Ann-st., 3 years. 2,000
Sargent, J., and wife to the Equitable Life Assurance Society; s. w. corner of 1st-av. and 59th-st., 3 years. 45,000
Schlosser, Joseph, to Mutual Lumber and others; s. w. corner of 1st-av. and 77th-st., 4 years. 7,000
Smith, H. G., H. Thompson; s. s. of Grand-st., n. of No. 428, 3 years. 2,000
Stearns, E. S., and wife to J. S. Stearns, Trustee, for E. S. Stearns; s. s. of Madison-av., 3 years. 12,000
Taylor, Valentine, and husband to the Farmers' Life and Trust Company; No. 81 West 11th-st., 3½ years. 9,000
Thomas, Amelia R., and husband to the Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society; s. s. 5th-av., 3 mortgages, 3 years, total. 13,600
Thomas, Amelia R., and husband to Samuel Thompson; same property, 3 years. 5,000
Tilney, L., and wife to the Mutual Life Insurance Company; s. w. corner of 8th and Bleecker-sts., 1 year. 8,000
Wardell, William A., to J. B. Martin; w. s. 8th-av., n. of 112th-st., 3 years. 11,000

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGES.

Asmith, J. H., and another to C. S. Westcott, 3 years. nom.
Bough, Mary, to H. Day; s. s. 125th-st., w. of Village, 3 years. nom.
Beeves, J. H., to Margaret G. Moore and another; No. 12 Greene-st., 3 years. nom.
Cherer, Israel, and wife to Max Danziger; s. s. 78d-st., 4 of 2d-av., 2 mortgages, 3 months. nom.
Crawford, Mary, and another to I. Manger; s. s. 72d-st., w. of 3d-av., 1 year. nom.
Cullen, J., and wife to Mary A. Reese; s. s. Willis-av., n. of 144th-st., 3 years. nom.
Damm, J., and wife to H. J. Andres; w. s. Second-st., Lot No. 23, 3 years. nom.
Dodge, S. H., and wife to the General Synod of the Church in America; s. s. 6th-av., n. of 30th-st., 1 year. nom.
Dunn, J., and wife to Fannie Mayer; s. s. Ridge-st., 3 years. nom.
Goldberg, J., and wife to A. Wahl; No. 164 Lewis-st., 3 years. nom.
Howell, Isabella, and another to Sarah M. Sondheim; s. s. 48-st., s. of Broadway, 3 years. nom.
Hunt, Magdalene, and others to Hebrew Mutual Benefit Society in New-York; s. s. 21-st., w. of 8th-av., 1 mortgage, 3 years, total. nom.
Kelly, C. G., and wife to H. Koehlinger; s. s. 53d-st., n. of 10th-av., 2 mortgages, 3 years, total. nom.
Kroehler, Wilhelmina, and husband to E. Sauer; s. s. 124th-st., w. of Avenue B, 3 years. nom.
McCloskey, Cardinal John, to E. H. Cookman and others, Trustees; s. s. 50th-st., w. of 5th-av., 3 years. nom.
Mallory, George S., and others to the United States Trust Company; No. 47 Lafayette-place, 3½ years. nom.
Murray, Joseph, and wife to William H. Isaacs; s. s. 111th-st., w. of 3d-av., 3 years. nom.
Oldmann, C. F., and wife to John Brommer, Executor, &c.; No. 14 Commerce-st., 2 years. nom.
Oppenheimer, Isaac, and others to the New-York Life Insurance Company; No. 40 East 55th-st., 1 year. nom.
Parsons, William C., and others to the New-York Life Insurance Company; s. w. corner of 4th-av. and 55th-st., 1 year. nom.
Parsons, William C., and others to J. L. Mitchell; all same property, 6 months. nom.
Phillips, August, to Bernelle Pempe and others; s. s. 7th-st., n. of 2d-st., 4 years. nom.
Pinkney, J. W., to E. Unger; s. s. 134th-st., n. of 3d-av., 1 year. nom.
Reilly, Thomas J., to O. J. Munsell; n. s. 103d-st., w. of 9th-av., 3 years. nom.
Rogers, Elizabeth, to Lydia R. Meeker; w. s. 9th-st., n. of 20th-st. Ann-st., 3 years. nom.
Sargent, J., and wife to the Equitable Life Assurance Society; s. w. corner of 1st-av. and 59th-st., 3 years. nom.
Schlosser, Joseph, to Mutual Lumber and others; s. w. corner of 1st-av. and 77th-st., 4 years. nom.
Smith, H. G., H. Thompson; s. s. of Grand-st., n. of No. 428, 3 years. nom.
Stearns, E. S., and wife to J. S. Stearns, Trustee, for E. S. Stearns; s. s. of Madison-av., 3 years. nom.
Taylor, Valentine, and husband to the Farmers' Life and Trust Company; No. 81 West 11th-st., 3½ years. nom.
Thomas, Amelia R., and husband to the Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society; s. s. 5th-av., 3 mortgages, 3 years, total. nom.
Thomas, Amelia R., and husband to Samuel Thompson; same property, 3 years. nom.
Tilney, L., and wife to the Mutual Life Insurance Company; s. w. corner of 8th and Bleecker-sts., 1 year. nom.
Wardell, William A., to J. B. Martin; w. s. 8th-av., n. of 112th-st., 3 years. nom.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGES.

Appleton, F. H., to the United States Trust Company; s. s. 59th-st., w. of 9th-av., 2 mortgages, 3 years, total. $17,000
Bough, Mary, to H. Day; s. s. 125th-st., w. of Village, 3 years. 1,000
Beeves, J. H., to Margaret G. Moore and another; No. 12 Greene-st., 3 years. 12,000
Cherer, Israel, and wife to Max Danziger; s. s. 78d-st., 4 of 2d-av., 2 mortgages, 3 months. 1,500
Crawford, Mary, and another to I. Manger; s. s. 72d-st., w. of 3d-av., 1 year. 17,132
Cullen, J., and wife to Mary A. Reese; s. s. Willis-av., n. of 144th-st., 3 years. 1,500
Damm, J., and wife to H. J. Andres; w. s. Second-st., Lot No. 23, 3 years. 600
Dodge, S. H., and wife to the General Synod of the Church in America; s. s. 6th-av., n. of 30th-st., 1 year. 4,000
Dunn, J., and wife to Fannie Mayer; s. s. Ridge-st., 3 years. 7,800
Goldberg, J., and wife to A. Wahl; No. 164 Lewis-st., 3 years. 2,500
Howell, Isabella, and another to Sarah M. Sondheim; s. s. 48-st., s. of Broadway, 3 years. 2,000
Hunt, Magdalene, and others to Hebrew Mutual Benefit Society in New-York; s. s. 21-st., w. of 8th-av., 1 mortgage, 3 years, total. 6,000
Kelly, C. G., and wife to H. Koehlinger; s. s. 53d-st., n. of 10th-av., 2 mortgages, 3 years, total. 1,500
Kroehler, Wilhelmina, and husband to E. Sauer; s. s. 124th-st., w. of Avenue B, 3 years. 1,200
McCloskey, Cardinal John, to E. H. Cookman and others, Trustees; s. s. 50th-st., w. of 5th-av., 3 years. 20,000
Mallory, George S., and others to the United States Trust Company; No. 47 Lafayette-place, 3½ years. 5,000
Murray, Joseph, and wife to William H. Isaacs; s. s. 111th-st., w. of 3d-av., 3 years. 4,000
Oldmann, C. F., and wife to John Brommer, Executor, &c.; No. 14 Commerce-st., 2 years. 10,000
Oppenheimer, Isaac, and others to the New-York Life Insurance Company; No. 40 East 55th-st., 1 year. 20,000
Parsons, William C., and others to the New-York Life Insurance Company; s. w. corner of 4th-av. and 55th-st., 1 year. 20,000
Parsons, William C., and others to J. L. Mitchell; all same property, 6 months. 5,000
Phillips, August, to Bernelle Pempe and others; s. s. 7th-st., n. of 2d-st., 4 years. 4,000
Pinkney, J. W., to E. Unger; s. s. 134th-st., n. of 3d-av., 1 year. 7,000
Reilly, Thomas J., to O. J. Munsell; n. s. 103d-st., w. of 9th-av., 3 years. 2,500
Rogers, Elizabeth, to Lydia R. Meeker; w. s. 9th-st., n. of 20th-st. Ann-st., 3 years. 2,000
Sargent, J., and wife to the Equitable Life Assurance Society; s. w. corner of 1st-av. and 59th-st., 3 years. 45,000
Schlosser, Joseph, to Mutual Lumber and others; s. w. corner of 1st-av. and 77th-st., 4 years. 7,000
Smith, H. G., H. Thompson; s. s. of Grand-st., n. of No. 428, 3 years. 2,000
Stearns, E. S., and wife to J. S. Stearns, Trustee, for E. S. Stearns; s. s. of Madison-av., 3 years. 12,000
Taylor, Valentine, and husband to the Farmers' Life and Trust Company; No. 81 West 11th-st., 3½ years. 9,000
Thomas, Amelia R., and husband to the Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society; s. s. 5th-av., 3 mortgages, 3 years, total. 13,600
Thomas, Amelia R., and husband to Samuel Thompson; same property, 3 years. 5,000
Tilney, L., and wife to the Mutual Life Insurance Company; s. w. corner of 8th and Bleecker-sts., 1 year. 8,000
Wardell, William A., to J. B. Martin; w. s. 8th-av., n. of 112th-st., 3 years. 11,000

MR. SMYTH THE RECORDER

A SUCCESSOR TO THE LATE JUDGE HACKETT.

FREDERICK SMYTH ELECTED BY THE ALDERMEN — THE OTHER CANDIDATES — A SKETCH OF THE NEW RECORDER'S CAREER.

The Board of Aldermen met yesterday in their capacity of Supervisors, for the purpose of electing a successor to the late Recorder Hackett. It was known before the session was opened that Mr. Frederick Smyth would be chosen to fill the position, and that, in addition to the votes of nine Tammany members, he would receive three or four from the Anti-Tammany side of the house, which would be sufficient to give him the late Judge Hackett's place. The six Republican Aldermen came prepared to support Assistant District Attorney Daniel G. Rollins, but it was evident that they did not believe he would be successful, as one of them had received information that the necessary vote had been secured for Mr. Smyth.

Supervisor Roberts opened the proceedings by stating that he was about to present the name of a candidate whose character was unexceptionable, and who would fill the position of Recorder with great credit to the City. The gentleman to whom he referred had occupied public attention many times. "I now nominate," said Mr. Roberts, "Frederick Smyth for Recorder."

Supervisor Porter—And it gives me great pleasure to nominate Daniel G. Rollins, Assistant District Attorney, for the office.

Supervisor Jacobus—I heartily approve of Mr. Rollins as a candidate.

Supervisor Robert Hall—I nominate John R. Fellows.

Supervisor Haughton, (smiling.)—My candidate is Thomas E. Ecclesine. [Laughter.]

Supervisor Mott—I am ready to vote for Chief-Justice Hyatt, pending to the Supervisor of that name. [Laughter.]

A ballot was then taken, resulting as follows:

For Frederick Smyth—Supervisors Roberts, Keenan, Cooper, Shelds, Foster, George Hall, Cavanagh, Carroll, (Tammany,) Kleinan, Hyatt, Strack, and Kenney, (Anti-Tammany)—13.

For Daniel G. Rollins—Supervisors Burns, Finck, Jacobus, Morris, Porter, and Stewart, (Republican)—6.

For John R. Fellows—Supervisor Robert Hall, (Anti-Tammany)—1.

For Thomas E. Ecclesine—Supervisor Haughton, (Anti-Tammany)—1.

For "Chief-Justice" Hyatt—Supervisor Mott, (Anti-Tammany)—1.

Supervisor Mott, who occupied the chair, then announced that Mr. Frederick Smyth had been elected Recorder of this City. The news was at once communicated to Mr. Smyth, who subsequently took the oath of office.

Frederick Smyth, the new Recorder, was born in the County Galway, Ireland, in the year 1832. His father was at one time Sheriff of that county. Young Smyth, when a mere boy, came to this City to seek his fortune, and entered the law office of Florence McCarthy, where he remained for several years. In 1850, Mr. McCarthy was elected Judge of the Marine Court and abandoned practice at the Bar. Mr. Smyth then entered the office of John McKeon, and was engaged for a considerable period there in preparing legal papers. From this office he was admitted to the Bar in 1855. Mr. McKeon was afterward appointed United States District Attorney, in this City, and he selected Mr. Smyth as his assistant. Mr. Smyth remained in this position with Mr. McKeon during the whole of the Administration of President Pierce and part of that of Mr. Buchanan, after which Mr. McKeon resumed his private law business, and Mr. Smyth became his partner and continued as such until the year 1873. In addition to his ordinary business, Mr. Smyth was appointed a Receiver several times. His political career, so far as office is concerned, has been hitherto unfortunate. The personal and intimate friend of John Kelly, he was pressed by the latter for different positions. Nominating conventions took him up as a candidate, and the machine strength of Tammany was put forth in vain. Mr. Smyth's first great political venture was made when he ran for Recorder in the Fall of 1875, and was defeated by John K. Hackett, whose place he now takes. He was a candidate for District Attorney in 1878, and was defeated by Mr. Benjamin K. Phelps. These political reverses did not for a moment shake his confidence in the ultimate power of Mr. Kelly. He entered the race for Judge of the Court of Common Pleas last November, but his opponent, Miles Beach, was elected. His expenses on these three occasions amounted to a little fortune. Mr. Smyth is the leader of the Tammany Committee in the Twenty-first District, and a member of the Committee on Organization. He also belongs to the Tammany Society, and was elected a Sachem some years since. Mr. Smyth's appointment is only for one year, as there must be an election by the people next November.

The Republican Aldermen do not appear to regard the course of their Anti-Tammany colleagues, Messrs. Hyatt, Kenney, and Strack, in voting for Mr. Smyth as any indication of a deal or alliance with Tammany. One of them stated last evening that Tammany found she could get a few votes from the Anti-Tammany side of the house, and she obtained them for the sole purpose of securing the election of Mr. Smyth. No other significance would be attached to the matter. This was subsequently found to be in harmony with the opinions which where expressed earlier in the day by shrewd politicians. Whether the example of the Anti-Tammany Aldermen, without whose votes Mr. Smyth could not have been elected, will be followed by their colleagues in similar emergencies remains to be seen.

IMPRISONED FORGERS.

UNSUCCESSFUL LEGAL EFFORTS TO REGAIN THEIR LIBERTY.

Two men, who are reputed to be among the most skillful forgers and utterers of forged paper in the world, have been confined in Ludlow-Street Jail since June 4, 1875, on orders of arrest obtained in a civil suit brought against them by the New-York Guaranty and Indemnity Company. They are Andrew L. Roberts and Valentine Gleason, and they are charged with having obtained large loans, from the plaintiff corporation, on forged railroad bonds. A judgment for $91,000 was rendered against them on the trial of the suit in the Superior Court, Jan. 6, 1876, when the principal evidence against them was that of Mrs. Fettus, wife of "Spencer" Fettus, the notorious forger and bank-robber, who is now in a Massachusetts prison. Pending the hearing by the Court of Appeals of the appeal of Roberts and Gleason from the judgment of the Superior Court, Mrs. Fettus died. The court of Appeals reversed the judgment of the lower court and ordered a new trial. Their counsel then moved, before Judge Speir, in the Superior Court, for the discharge of the prisoners from custody. Judge Speir decided yesterday that the fact that the judgment against them had been reversed by the higher court and a new trial of the cause ordered furnished no ground for their discharge from custody, and that to obtain freedom pending the new trial they must give bail on the orders of arrest.

THE UNIVERSITY CLUB'S LIBRARY.

The Committee on Literature and Art of the University Club has submitted a report to that organization recommending the establishment of a library in connection with the club. It is the opinion of the committee that preference should be given to works not included in the private collections of the members. They believe that works of reference for the proposed library should include not only the most valuable books of reference in the several departments of literature, science, and art, but also the great standard works of literature in English and other languages. A university library is also recommended as needful, and for such a collection is mentioned all publications that pertain to the origin, growth, and social life of the university, colleges, and other institutions of higher learning in this country and in Europe. This department of the proposed library, the committee believe, should include college memorabilia, every accessible scrap of printed paper illustrating the colleges as social institutions, as well as biographical sketches of prominent graduates. In addition to these, a "club library," containing books, historical and practical, on the recreations of gentlemen in their social organizations and in their outdoor sports, is also suggested. In view of the fact that the current funds of the club cannot be applied to the purchase of books, an appeal is made for voluntary contributions from members. Seventeen gentlemen have already subscribed $1,500. Among those who are authorized to receive and acknowledge donations are the Rev. Dr. Bellows, Mr. Henry Holt, Mr. Horace W. Robbins, Mr. Parke Godwin, and Mr. Morris J. Asch.

A NEW YEAR'S GIFT FOR TIFFANY.

Messrs. Tiffany & Co. yesterday received a New Year's present in the form of a letter from their London house informing them of the receipt of a warrant from Marlborough House appointing the firm jewelers and silversmiths to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

MASONIC ELECTIONS.

Moses Temple, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, has elected the following-named officers: Walter M. Fleming, C. P.; Charles W. Torrey, C. R.; Joseph R. Rathbun, A. R.; Charles H. Hoyser, R. P.; James McGee, C. d.; Joseph M. Levy, Treasurer; William S. Paterson, Secretary; Davis D. Osterhoudt, C. M.; Joseph P. Waring, E. R.; George McNeil, Marshal; John J. Silberhorn, C. G.; Stephen W. Swift, O. G.

The Lodge of Perfection, A. A. S. R., has elected the following-named officers for 1880: Wilbert A. Pearce, 32d, T. P. G. M.; William D. Garrison, 32d, D. G. M.; Edward S. Keyser, 32d, S. G. W.; Joseph R. Rathbun, 32d, J. G. W.; John H. Gray, 32d, G. Orator; Peter Force De Lacy, 32d, G. Treasurer; William H. Paterson, 32d, G. Secretary; William J. Lawrence, 32d, G. M. Ceremonies; George McNeil, 32d, G. Capt. G.; Gennaro Rossi, 32d, G. Hosp.; Theodore Brown, 32d, G. Tiler; George W. Gilbert, 32d, Joseph M. Levy, 32d, William A. Hayward, 32d, Stewards.

Temple Council, Princes of Jerusalem, A. A. S. R., has elected the following-named officers for 1880: Charles H. Hoyser, 32d, M. E. S. P. G. M.; Joseph M. Levy, 32d, Deputy; G. W. Chase, 32d, G. M. Ceremonies; Edward M. L. Ehlers, 32d, G. C.; Edwin Booth, 32d, G. Treasurer; William S. Paterson, 32d, G. S.; George McNeil, 32d, G. M. E.; Francisco A. Pecoro, 32d, G. A.; Stephen W. Swift, 32d, G. Tiler; Charles T. McClenahan, 32d, J. Hobart Ward, 32d, Jacob B. Tolfair, 32d, Trustees.

BANK OFFICERS CONVICTED.

THE MECHANICS' AND LABORERS' SAVINGS BANK TRIAL ENDED.

The trial of the indicted officers and Directors of the Mechanics' and Laborers' Savings Bank, in Jersey City, was concluded yesterday, with a verdict of guilty against all the defendants. The indictment charged them with having conspired, by concealing the insolvency of the bank, to cheat and defraud the depositors. The four counsel in the case had finished their arguments on Tuesday evening, and on the assembling of the court yesterday morning, Judge A. O. Garretson proceeded to the delivery of his charge. After having defined the meaning of the term conspiracy generally, and what combinations are unlawful and punishable, the Judge added that there is also a class of conspiracies which are held to be indictable on the ground that the act done, though not in itself indictable, is essentially a public injury. There are many acts which become punishable on the ground that they affect injuriously the rights of many, which are not punishable when only one or three are injured. Savings banks are for the public good, and Chief-Justice Greene had declared that it was difficult to conceive of any conspiracy which more imperatively requires the interposition of the common law or the restraining influence of penal enactments than conspiracies to defraud incorporated banks of issue. "For the managers of a savings bank, (who are directing and controlling it by virtue of an act of incorporation, and having large amounts of money already on deposit and constantly receiving more, with knowledge not only that the bank is not able to repay the amounts already deposited, but will not be able to repay such as may be deposited) to agree together to conceal such knowledge, and make use of the powers conferred on them to keep and receive deposits, and thereby cheat and defraud either those who have already deposited or those who may make such a deposit, is to commit a great public wrong."

Judge Garretson read the act of the Legislature defining conspiracy, and told the jurors that the crime of conspiracy is also an offense at the common law. The act incorporating the bank provides that the money deposited shall be used to the best advantage and profit of the depositors. If the defendants knew of the insolvency of the bank they had no right to keep it open. But the jury might canvass the question of intent, and if they found that they believed they would be able to compel Halliard, the President, to make restitution, and so save the bank, they should be acquitted. Two of the defendants must be convicted to sustain a verdict of guilty. Though individual defendants may have done wrong, the jury, to convict, must believe that the wrong complained of was the result of an agreement between two or more of them. No proof of formal consultation was necessary. If a common design is patent and they acted in concert to do what was wrong, it was evidence from which a jury might infer a conspiracy. Any coherence of action on a material point, or collocation of independent but co-operative acts by persons closely associated, made the act of each binding on all. To this principle might be referred the statements of various defendants that the bank was sound. When the existence of a conspiracy is actually established, confession of one can bind no one but himself, and the refusal of one to appear as a witness for himself (John Halliard was the only defendant who was not sworn in the case) affects only his own standing before the jury.

The court said, too, as to their motive in closing out the general deposit account, that the defendants could not be held personally responsible for them any more than savings deposits, but if they believed they could be so held and it was part of the common design it was a motive.

The jury retired at 11:10 o'clock A. M. The Hon. Leon Abbett, counsel for some of the defendants, and Counselor Collins, who appeared for others, took several exceptions to the charge, though they privately stated that it was an eminently fair one. The first ballot taken in the jury room showed 11 votes for conviction, and one blank. The second ballot showed an agreement, and at 12:40, after an absence of an hour and a half they returned into the court-room. Asked what their verdict was, the foreman replied, "Guilty in manner and form charged." The 12 were polled, and each for himself answered "Guilty." Counsel gave notice of an application for a new trial. The persons who are thus convicted are some of the best known men in the community. John Halliard and James Donelan, two of them, were, respectively, President and Secretary of the bankrupt institution. Mr. Halliard, a prominent figure in the Methodist Church, afterward joined the Catholic Church, and was the intimate friend of Bishop Bayley and his successor, Bishop Corrigan. He was rather pleased than otherwise with the verdict. His fellow defendants had endeavored to throw the whole responsibility on his shoulders, and he winked as he said rather cheerfully to a reporter yesterday, "I say it's all right to convict all if one is to be convicted."

Patrick Sheeran, another of the defendants, is a large carriage manufacturer, worth $100,000. He has served one term in the State Legislature, and at the recent Fall elections was rechosen Assemblyman from the Second Jersey City District. His conviction does not debar him from acting as a member, though the House, being the judge of the qualification and election of its members, may possibly take cognizance of the conviction.

Jeremiah Sweeney is a man of large wealth. He is Superintendent of the East-bound freights for the Erie Railway Company, and for three years was a member of the Jersey City Board of Finance. He has also been an Alderman.

Dr. Thomas C. O'Callaghan is said to be worth $500,000. He is engaged in a number of enterprises, and is one of the best-known men in the community. When Halliard was deposed from the Presidency of the bank, O'Callaghan was elected in his place. He has lived in Jersey City 14 or 15 years.

These convictions created intense excitement throughout Hudson County.

A MONSTER SHIP.

THE STEAMER THAT IS NOW BUILDING IN ENGLAND FOR THE INMAN LINE.

A new steam-ship, which when completed will be the largest and finest merchant vessel in the world, is now being built at Barrow, England, for the Inman Line. She will be ready for use in the Spring of 1881, and will then begin making regular trips between this port and Liverpool. The City of Rome was regarded as the most appropriate name which could be given to this addition to the Inman fleet. Her dimensions are to be as follows: Length of keel, 546 feet; length over all, 590 feet; breadth of beam, 52 feet; depth of hold, 38 feet 9 inches, and depth from top of deck-houses to keel, 52 feet. Her measurement will be 8,300 tons, or over 2,000 tons larger than either the City of Berlin or the Arizona, and 800 tons larger than the Servia, the new Cunard steam-ship, which will be completed this Fall. She will be over four-fifths of the size of the Great Eastern. The engines of the City of Rome will be of 8,500-horse power, with six cylinders, three of which are high-pressure and three low-pressure. There will be eight boilers, heated by 48 furnaces, and the vessel can be propelled at the rate of 18¼ knots an hour. She will carry four large masts, and three smoke-funnels. A large spread of canvas can be set, which will enable the steam-ship to make good time, if necessary, without the aid of the engines. The saloon and state-rooms will be placed amidships, and will contain every facility for comfort and luxury. All the latest improvements are to be added, and the entire cabin will be splendidly furnished and upholstered. There will be 275 revolving chairs at the saloon-tables, and the state-rooms will easily accommodate 200 first class passengers. A drawing-room, which can be occupied by 100 ladies at once, will be placed on the deck immediately over the saloon. The smoking-room will be above the drawing-room, and will accommodate 100 smokers at ones. The saloon will contain six bath-rooms. There will be room on board for almost any number of steerage passengers, and space for an enormous quantity of freight in the hold. The City of Rome is to be built of steel, with a double bottom, and 11 bulkheads. Two longitudinal bulkheads are to be run through the engines' and boilers' space. These will greatly decrease the danger of the vessel sinking in case of a collision. The top decks are to be of the best teak. No expense is to be spared in making this magnificent steam-ship perfect in every respect. She will have the highest classification of any vessel in the Liverpool underwriters' book and in the British Lloyds. The Inman people expect that, so far as the transportation of passengers and freight goes, the City of Rome will prove the monarch of the seas. Work was begun on the new vessel as soon as the contract with the Barrow Steam-ship Building Company had been closed.

DEPARTURES FOR EUROPE.

The steam-ships City of Richmond, of the Inman Line; the Herder, of the Imperial German Mail; the State of Pennsylvania, of the State Line; the Queen, of the National Line, and the California, of the Anchor Line, are advertised to sail for Europe to-day. The passenger lists are small. The following are the only lists which have been received:

In steam-ship City of Richmond, for Liverpool.—Miss Hamilton, Miss Hatt, J. G. Hassler, J. W. Tucker, L. N. Beavis, John B. King, John A. Peebles, H. King, Mrs. King, Master Joseph King, Master Charles King.

In steam-ship Herder, for Hamburg.—L. Speer, Max Meinlen, W. Singer, Carl Trenter, E. Linder, A. Weill.

THE STATEN ISLAND FARCE.

The continuance of the examination of witnesses in the case of the alleged buying of votes among the inmates of the Sailors' Snug Harbor was set down for 1 o'clock yesterday before Justice Kenney, but nothing was done except to take a further adjournment until next Tuesday, at 10 o'clock. Ex-Judge Fullerton was to have been present on the defense, but other engagements prevented his attendance. Mr. Horstmann, the Assistant District Attorney, was suffering from a severe personal attack, and could not go on with the case. Justice Kenney's term of office expires to-day. The evidence taken in the case will be sent by mail or over to Justice Garrett, who will conduct it in the future, and Mr. Horstmann says he will draw a new complaint. Meantime, the witness Ainslie, who swore that he had been paid $1 to vote the Republican ticket, was taken yesterday morning before Justice Johnson, at Northfield, charged with perjury. Ainslie denied that he had said he had been paid money to vote. He was committed by the Justice.

A FIGHT FOR LIBERTY.

A NEW-YORK LAWYER IN AN ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

Dr. Rutledgh, the Superintendent of the New-Jersey State Lunatic Asylum, at Morris Plains, appeared in Judge Knapp's court, in Jersey City Heights, yesterday, in answer to a writ of habeas corpus, directing him to produce the body of Samuel B. Higginbottom. The Superintendent was accompanied by the gentleman in whose behalf the writ was sued out. Mr. Higginbottom is a lawyer of considerable prominence at the New-York Bar. He has an office at No. 237 Broadway, and was at one time associated with the firm of Lord, Day & Lord. He is a gentleman of fine presence, about 50 years of age. He is the father of nine children, most of them grown up, who, with his wife, live in a beautiful residence in an aristocratic section of Elizabeth, N. J. His family allege that he is a man of intemperate habits, and that when he is under the influence of liquor he treats them with violence. It was stated yesterday that on one occasion recently he drove his wife and daughters out of the house at night, without giving them opportunity to put on their shoes and stockings. The family say that they have on other occasions been obliged to go to the neighbors' houses for protection. On Saturday, Dec. 13, on the prayer of the family, Judge David Mulford, one of the Associate Judges of the Union County Court of Common Pleas, signed an order committing him as an insane person to the Morris Plains Lunatic Asylum. The certificate on which the warrant for his apprehension was issued bears the signatures of Dr. James S. Green and Dr. Joseph B. Morton, who declare him to be insane. On Sunday, Dec. 14, a constable visited his house and took him to the asylum. The day was rainy and wet, and Mr. Higginbottom alleges that he contracted a cold while on the way, from which he has not yet recovered, and that chronic organic disorders have been aggravated by the exposure. He claims that his incarceration as a lunatic was without any justification, and that it is the result of a prejudice against him on the part of his family and one of the physicians.

Six months ago Mr. Higginbottom returned from a trip to Europe. When he reached his home in Elizabeth, he learned that Dr. J. S. Green had advised his family in times of illness. When Dr. Green presented his bill, Mr. Higginbottom objected to one item of $50. A lawsuit and much bitterness of feeling ensued. The Doctor secured judgment for the amount of the claim, less $9 or $10, and execution was issued against Mr. Higginbottom's household goods. The property on which Mr. Higginbottom resides belongs to the family, but the title is said to be in his wife's name. Mr. Higginbottom declares that, for the purpose of annoying him, Dr. Green had notices of the levy on his furniture posted on a tree-box in front of the Higginbottom mansion, and in other conspicuous places. The judgment was satisfied on Dec. 13, and later, on the same day, Dr. Green, as Mr. Higginbottom says, signed the certificate asserting his insanity, on the strength of which he was sent to the lunatic asylum.

A few days ago Mr. Higginbottom, through his counsel, applied to Judge Knapp for a writ of habeas corpus, which was returned into court yesterday. Judge Knapp decided to hear the case in Chambers. He desired testimony to be taken as to the prisoner's insanity, and directed Counselor John A. Nugent, the court stenographer, to act as Referee. The defendant was represented by ex-Senator Charles H. Winfield, of Jersey City, and Counselor Frank Bergen, of Elizabeth. James E. English, of Elizabeth, appeared for the family. The proceedings were conducted in private. But, from some of the friends, who accompanied the defendant to the court-room, it was learned that Dr. Buttolph testified that he had seen no evidence of insanity on the part of the lawyer. Keeper Williams, who is engaged on the corridor in which Higginbottom is confined, gave similar testimony. The Rev. Dr. E. A. K. Gessler, formerly of Elizabeth, but now Pastor of one of the Baptist churches in Brooklyn, and that he had known Mr. Higginbottom for some years, and regarded him as an unusually bright and sensible gentleman. It appeared from other testimony in the case that, even since his imprisonment, Higginbottom has drawn correctly some intricate legal papers, and acted as attorney for some of his clients. Judge Knapp will give a decision next week.

THE NEW-YORK CITY BANKS.

AN ABSTRACT OF THE REPORTS SHOWING THEIR CONDITION ON DEC. 12.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—The following is an abstract of reports made to the Controller of the Currency, showing the condition of the national banks of the City of New-York, at the close of business on Dec. 12:

RESOURCES.

Loans and discounts	$205,669,745 87
Overdrafts	80,440 92
United States bonds to secure circulation	27,956,000 00
United States bonds to secure deposits	1,120,200 00
United States bonds on hand	7,752,550 00
Other stocks, bonds, and mortgages	7,505,581 69
Due from other national banks	13,760,549 66
Due from State banks and bankers	3,022,804 90
Real estate, furniture, and fixtures	9,865,856 06
Current expenses and taxes paid	1,764,121 66
Premiums paid	1,766,604 25
Checks and other cash items	1,056,302 57
Exchanges for Clearing-house	90,108,102 01
Bills of other national banks	1,421,098 00
Fractional currency	12,811 76
Specie	49,646,389 64
Legal-tender notes	7,054,877 00
United States certificates of deposit for legal-tender notes	2,310,000 00
Five per cent. redemption fund	1,204,455 50
Due from United States Treasurer	144,741 52
Total	$433,543,730 90

LIABILITIES.

Capital stock paid in	$50,650,000 00
Surplus fund	16,560,194 54
Other undivided profits	10,236,917 51
National bank notes outstanding	22,915,877 00
State bank notes outstanding	53,925 00
Dividends unpaid	150,496 80
Individual deposits	224,092,119 77
United States deposits	273,262 83
Deposits of United States disbursing officers	277,397 77
Due other national banks	76,554,030 93
Due to State banks and bankers	28,109,079 44
Total	$433,543,730 90

Number of banks, 47.

The amount of reserves required at the date of the reports to the Controller was $56,086,093, showing an excess of lawful cash reserve over the amount required by law of $4,720,628.

WORK IN THE COURTS.

A YEAR'S BUSINESS IN THE SUPERIOR AND SURROGATE'S COURTS, AND COMMON PLEAS.

The following statistics show the amount of business done during the year 1879 in the Superior and Common Pleas Courts:

SUPERIOR COURT.—Cases argued at General Term, 119; decisions rendered at General Term, 138; causes tried at Circuit, 714; inquests, 57; motions heard and decided, 7,392; orders entered, 4,929; foreigners naturalized, 1,930; declarations of intention to be naturalized, 1,296.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS.—General Term—Number of cases on calendar, 548; affirmed at once on hearing, 125; reversed at once on hearing 75; dismissed, 40; opinions written, 227. Circuit Jury Trial Term—Number of cases tried, 238; tried, settled, discontinued, or dismissed, 748. Equity Term—Cases on calendar, 196; tried, 49; other trials disposed of, 52. Chambers—Orders granted, 16,223; motions heard and decided, 878. In this court there were 177 mortgage foreclosure cases heard and decided, 46 divorce suits, and 38 mechanics' lien cases. The number of persons admitted to citizenship was 2,403, and of persons whose names were changed, 28. The schedules and inventories filed under the State Insolvency law numbered 263, and represented—liabilities, $12,389,445 96; nominal assets, $6,216,000, and actual assets, $2,178,000. The schedules had to be carefully examined, and the bonds of the Assignees taken and approved.

The business transacted in the Surrogate's Court during the past year has been extensive, and Surrogate Calvin estimates that the aggregate value of all the estates adjudicated upon and otherwise settled or determined is not less than $150,000,000, which, of course, includes the Vanderbilt estate. There were 966 wills offered for probate, and 73 contested, in 59 of which testimony was taken, and 4 of them were finally rejected. The wills admitted to probate numbered 932, and 37 are still pending. Letters of administration were granted on 1,569 estates, besides 74 with the wills annexed. There were also granted 510 letters of guardianship, 628 decrees on final accounting, 5,500 motions heard and disposed of, and 1,539 orders to show cause issued. The record of wills has been brought down to November, 1879, and nearly all the records and indexes have been kept close up to date by the clerical force. The Surrogate has personally passed upon and signed letters, orders, and decrees of various kinds to the number of over 11,000, and has held court for the hearing of contested will cases on 219 days, and for the hearing of special motions 62 days, and has written 147 opinions in accounting and contested will cases.

ASSESSMENTS VACATED.

The Board of Aldermen passed a resolution in December, 1878, instructing the Commissioner of Public Works to have One Hundred and Twenty-third-street regulated, graded, and paved by day's work. When the street had been improved, and the cost of the improvement had been assessed upon the property-owners, Edward Colegrove and Henry I. Newton applied to the Supreme Court to vacate their assessments, on the grounds that the charter directs all public work to be done under contract, unless the Common Council specifically orders it to be done otherwise, and that the ordinance passed by the Common Council in December, 1878, was not a special direction in accordance with the charter. The special Term vacated the assessments on these grounds, and the City appealed to the General Term, which body has affirmed the judgment of the lower court.

CITY AND SUBURBAN NEWS

NEW-YORK.

The Clan-na-Gael will give a promenade ball in Irving Hall on Wednesday evening, Jan. 14.

The Republic, from Liverpool, brought 187 immigrants yesterday—the last batch of 1879.

The Pennsylvania Coal Company is the only local coal company that has issued a circular for January. Prices are all unchanged.

The newly-elected officers in Koltes Post, No. 32, G. A. R. are to be installed at the Germania Assembly Rooms, No. 291 Bowery, to-morrow at 9 P. M.

The Internal Customs receipts of 1879 were 2,500 ounces on the City of Mardin, 100 ounces on the City of Washington, and 2,750 pounds of sugar on the Lothair, from Manilla.

The stock and cotton brokers spent yesterday afternoon in smashing each others' hats, and pelting each other with snowballs, wax towels, wads of paper, and such other missiles as offered. Very little business was done meantime on either Exchange.

The City of Washington, of the Alexandre Line, which arrived from Havana on Tuesday evening, made the passage in 3 days, 4 hours, and 57 minutes. This is the fastest Winter passage which has yet been made between this port and Havana.

In supplying the several departments, bureaus, courts, and offices of the City Government for the year 1879 with necessary printing, blank books, and stationery, Mr. Costigan, Supervisor of the *City Record*, expended $105,000, against $133,500 expended for the same purpose in 1878.

At 3:30 and 7:30 P. M. to-day meetings will be held in the parlors of the Young Men's Christian Association, by those interested in the Gospel work as Cooper Union, for praise and thanksgiving for the past, and to seek increased blessing upon the coming year.

William Foster, of No. 440 West Fifty-third-street, and Charles Loewe, of No. 46 Delaney-street, were held in default of $1,000 bail each, in the Tombs Police Court, yesterday, on a charge of stealing goods from Church Brothers, cotton manufacturers, of Nos. 479 and 481 Broome-street.

Charles M. Sheridan, who stole a valise belonging to Mr. Lincoln MacVeagh, from the Desbrosses-Street Ferry house, was arraigned in the Special Sessions yesterday. Sheridan claimed to have been driven to the theft by fear of starvation. He pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to the Penitentiary for five months.

The will of the late James M. Motley was filed yesterday in the Surrogate's Court. The testator bequeaths all of his property to his widow and children, giving the widow the income of one-third, in lieu of dower. The estate is said to be worth about $400,000, the personality alone being estimated at $100,000. The will was made Dec. 17, 1866.

Philip Rudolph, aged 14, and Edward Stevenson, aged 15, both residents of No. 427 East Fourteenth-street, were caught, yesterday, in the apartments of Theodore Kuntzman, of No. 427 East Fifteenth-street, into which they broke for the purpose of robbing them. While Kuntzman was endeavoring to hold Stevenson, the latter bit him in the wrist, inflicting an ugly wound. Both boys were arrested, and were held for trial, in the Yorkville Police Court, in default of $1,000 bail each.

The American Temperance Union has elected the following named officers: Trustees—Dr. James W. Richards, James A. Bogardus, E. H. Carpenter, Ass Hull, Henry C. Parks; President—The Rev. George H. Corey; Vice-Presidents—James A. Bogardus, M. M. Mildeberger, Walter Logan, Charles Henderson, Daniel Ross; Recording Secretary—M. McKinnon; Corresponding Secretary—E. H. Carpenter; Financial Secretary—Harry H. Carpenter; Treasurer—J. J. Burnet; Chaplain—The Rev. I. Westley B. Wood.

Frank McCormick, aged 18 years, of No. 213 East One Hundred and Thirty-second-street, and Nelly Grosson, aged 14, of No. 87 Christopher-street were held yesterday, by Justice Hogan, as pickpockets. The boy was seen to attempt to pick a pocket in East Nineteenth-street, near Broadway. The girl was arrested near a crowd that were watching Gulliver and the Lilliputians at Macy's store. She had in her possession five pocket-books containing small sums, and other property stolen from ladies' and children's pockets.

Corporation Counsel Whitney was asked yesterday what action he proposed to take in reference to the decision of the General Term, on Tuesday, that a writ of certiorari may be properly sued out to review the action of the Commissioners of Sidney P. Nichols from the Board of Police Commissioners. Mr. Whitney said he supposed the case would now have to be tried. "We may perhaps appeal from the order," he said, "but go on with the trial at the same time, as there has been no stay of proceedings granted as any time."

Col. James G. Hughes was arrested yesterday at No. 200 East Twenty-first-street by Officers Field and O'Connor, of the District Attorney's office. Hughes is indicted by the Grand Jury for embezzling the funds of his ward, William Kelly, in the amount of $2,500. He was brought to the District Attorney's office yesterday morning, and from there sent before Justice Osterbourg, and temporarily committed to the City Prison in default of $1,000 bail. Hughes formerly resided at Port Richmond, Staten Island.

Senator John P. Jones, ex-Senator A. McDonald, Drake De Kay, Henry Havemeyer, and some other sentlemen of like standing, are endeavoring to organize a new mining exchange under a special charter granted by the State of New-York. Seats are offered for $1,000 each, and the money thus obtained is to be invested in United States Government bonds, to be held under a special trust to secure the principal of each seat. Purchasers are to be responsible for none of the expenses of management, each seat being simply a license to deal on the exchange. The annual dues are fixed at $250. Rooms have been secured in the Boreel Building.

BROOKLYN.

Margaret Westbersby, a partially insane woman, has been missing from her home, at No. 50 Box-street, since Tuesday afternoon.

R. C. Ward, recently appointed Internal Revenue Collector, vice Freeland, deceased, entered on the duties of his office yesterday afternoon. He says he is not trammeled, politically, and will make few, if any, changes in his office.

During a fight last evening between Catharine Clews and Catharine Mahoney, both residents of the tenement-house No. 371 Furman-street, the former struck the latter twice on the head with an axe, inflicting severe wounds. The injured woman was taken to the Long Island College Hospital and her assailant was arrested.

The funeral of the late Stephen Haynes, Park Commissioner, took place yesterday from the Washington-Street Methodist Episcopal Church, and was largely attended. The services were conducted by the Rev. D. C. Ferris, Pastor of the church. The interment was in Green-Wood Cemetery.

The Clason-Avenue Presbyterian Church has refused to permit the Presbytery to hold its meeting in that church on the second Tuesday in January. The officers of the church say that they are at present without a Pastor, and that they have had nothing to do with the Talmage quarrel, and do not want to be dragged into it.

A new horse railroad company has just been incorporated. The route will be eight miles long, beginning at the ferries foot of Greenpoint-avenue and ending at Twentieth-street and Ninth-avenue. Mr. C. C. Talbot has been chosen President, Mr. R. W. Wilson, Treasurer, and Mr. George G. Herman, Secretary, of the new company.

Both the Republican and Democratic members of the new Board of Aldermen will caucus on Friday. Smith and Petry, two of the Republicans, so-called, who sold out their party last Summer, have been invited to both caucuses. It is believed that the nominee of the Republican caucus for President of the Board will be elected.

Commissioners Fyburn and Leich yesterday forced Capt. Joel Smith, as old and experienced officer, who, although his hair is tinged with gray, is a hearty, vigorous man, to retire from the force on a pension because he would not submit to the indignity of such an examination as applicants for appointment on the force are required to undergo.

The Board of Police and Excise Commissioners were voted yesterday to reduce the salaries of the clerical employes of the board $9,000 in the aggregate. The telegraph operators, who have heretofore been receiving $1,200, are reduced to $900 a year. Commissioners Fyburn and Leich did not reduce their own salaries, although they are admittedly as useless in the Police Department as the fifth wheel of a coach.

WESTCHESTER COUNTY.

The Rev. J. B. Rosegrants, of Port Jervis, has accepted a call to become the Rector of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, at Port Chester, and will commence his duties on Feb. 1.

On Tuesday afternoon, while Thomas Maloney, a boy 12 years of age, and another boy were on the ice of the reservoir near the depot at Peekskill, they broke through the ice and Maloney was drowned. The other boy was rescued. Maloney was the only son of a widowed mother.

On Tuesday afternoon Arthur Folsom, son of Edward Folsom, a photographer at Katonah, went into the dark-room in his father's gallery, and swallowed a cup of iodide of potash, thinking it to be water. Two doctors were soon in attendance, and the boy's life was saved.

On Tuesday afternoon, at about 3 o'clock, a large barn filled with hay, the property of Mr. William Mathews, near the depot at Rye Village, on the New-York, New-Haven and Hartford Railroad, was destroyed by fire. It is supposed that a tramp had gone into the barn to seek shelter for the night, and in lighting his pipe accidentally set fire to the barn.

NET RECEIPTS OF THE ARMORY FAIR.

The time fixed by the Board of Managers of the Seventh Regiment Fair for the final return by the several committees of their net receipts at the new armory fair, expired yesterday. The Treasurer, Mr. John J. McLean, reports that the total net receipts of the fair amount to $135,359, which will be doubtless increased by further returns from other departments of the fair to $140,000.

MRS. THOMSEN'S COMPLAINT.

Warden O'Rourke, of Bellevue Hospital, yesterday appeared before the Commissioners of Charities and Correction and submitted his report in regard to the sickness and death and subsequent dissection of Charles Thomsen, an inmate of the hospital. At first Warden Brennan gave the reporters permission to copy the report, but afterward said the Warden had withdrawn the document for the purpose of making some corrections in it. Last evening, however, when a TIMES reporter called on Warden O'Rourke for a copy of the report, that gentleman said he had not withdrawn it, nor had he made corrections in it. *He said there was nothing new in the report further than had already been published.* Mrs. Thomsen, her sister, Mrs. Petersen, Mr. Reidell, Mr. Greenbaum, Keeper White of the Morgue, and the clerk and several nurses of the hospital were also before the Commissioners, ready to proceed with the investigation. It was decided, however, to adjourn the hearing of the case until to-morrow at 4 o'clock P. M.

BANK AND LEGAL TENDER CIRCULATION.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—The Controller of the Currency reports that the amount of additional circulation issued during the month of December was $2,576,580, amount of bank-notes retired, $807,226, showing a net increase of $1,769,354. The total amount of additional national bank circulation issued during the year ending Dec. 31, 1879, was $26,597,870, amount retired, $7,612,761, showing the net increase of bank circulation during the year to be $18,985,109. The total amount of national bank circulation outstanding Dec. 31 was $340,385,012, not including the circulation of the national gold banks, which was $1,426,120.

The following is a statement of United States currency outstanding at this date:

Old demand notes	$61,940 00
Legal-tender notes (all issues)	346,681,016 00
One-year notes of 1863	47,520 00
Two-year notes of 1863	13,850 00
Three-year notes of 1863	23,550 00
Compound interest notes	962,670 00
Fractional currency (all issues)	15,674,306 11
Total	$363,784,069 11

FOREIGN LABOR AND TRADE NOTES.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE, Dec. 31.—The masters have refused the application of the cotton-spinners for an increase of 5 per cent. in their wages.

LONDON, Dec. 31.—The